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Junk Bay Plane Crash

All four members of the crew of a "Dakota" aircraft are believed to have been killed when it crashed into the side of Devil's Peak, Kowloon, almost within sight of the airport late yesterday afternoon.

The plane was reportedly carrying \$15,000,000 in gold. There were no passengers.

Rescue parties had not reached the scene of the crash at the time of going to press, although the plane went off the air shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It was not until late yesterday evening that the plane had crashed into the eastern slopes of Devil's Peak, near the Pak Hong Channel.

Owing to the wide area which would have to be searched at night, together with almost negligible visibility, aircraft at Kai Tak were grounded owing to the weather. The search party will not be leaving until first light, around 5 o'clock this morning, when a strong party of Police, RAF and Commandos will proceed to the reported crash-site.

The aircraft, a Philippine Air Lines "Dakota," No. PIC-12, left Manila yesterday afternoon; it carried no passengers but, reliable sources state it carried a cargo of \$15,000,000 in gold.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the control tower at Kai Tak had its last contact with the machine. Control ordered the machine to gain altitude but received no reply acknowledging receipt of these instructions.

Nothing further was heard from the machine and other aircraft reported not having seen it or heard from it. Then, late last night, a Police wireless message was received at HQ, reporting that a PAL plane had crashed into Devil's Peak at 3:20 p.m., apparently as it was endeavouring to come in for a landing at Kai Tak.

No further details were available last night. Heavy rain and low clouds made it impossible for rescue parties to set out immediately to search the rough terrain in the vicinity of the mountain nor could aircraft be flown off to verify the report.

Little hope was held out for the lives of the aircraft's crew of four.

CRASH NEAR HAMBURG

Frankfurt, Jan. 26. An American army aircraft struck a high tension cable and crashed 100 kilometres south of Hamburg today, killing the pilot, the Dena German News Service in the United States zone reported, quoting an announcement by the American Air Headquarters in Europe.

The plane was bound from Ansbach (United States zone) to Copenhagen.—Reuter.

WAS AN INNOCENT MAN SENTENCED?

Urgent telephone conversations between London and Manchester were held today about the alleged confession to the murder of Olive Balcin on a bombed site in Manchester last October by a man who is the "double" of Walter Graham Rowland, now in a condemned cell after conviction for the murder.

The man, who is stated to have confessed, is serving a sentence in gaol at Liverpool, less than 40 miles from Manchester, where Rowland is in prison. Rowland's appeal is due to be heard by the Court of Criminal Appeal in London on Monday and his legal advisers were today trying to get the position clarified in view of the new development.

His solicitor said today: "If there is any substance in the man's statement, it seems a waste of time to take three wit-

LORDS' DEBATE ON CHINA Socialist Criticism Of British Policy

Government Views Outlined

London, Jan. 24. Last night's debate in the House of Lords—the first full debate on the China situation held in Parliament since the war ended—provided an opportunity for the expression of views representing various influential quarters.

Seven peers representing all the three big parties Labour, Liberal and Conservative, took part in the debate which lasted three hours. All but one endorsed the Government policy of non-intervention in Chinese domestic affairs and all but one expressed appreciation of the immense difficulties faced by the Chinese National Government regarding Chinese Communists.

The extreme Leftwing view was presented by Socialist Lord Lindsay, who criticised everything done by the Chinese Government.

Lord Allwyn, Conservative, Lord Tavistock, Liberal (members of the British Parliamentary Mission to China in 1943), Lord Idlesleigh, Conservative, Lord Cranborne, Conservative

and former Secretary of State for the Dominions, all described Lord Lindsay's speech as regrettable while Lord Forwood, Liberal, warned against a programme of international Communism and advocated continued support to the Chinese Government against its being gradually undermined by the Chinese Communists.

The Government policy was defined by Lord Jowitt, British Lord Chancellor, who reaffirmed Britain's adherence to the policy of non-interference in Chinese internal affairs as decided at the Potsdam Conference and reaffirmed continued recognition of the Chinese National Government under President Chiang Kai-shek as China's legal Government.

He added that the British Government does not follow blindly the policy of any foreign government but British general aims in China happen to be the same as the American aims—namely business and conducting friendly relations with a strong and stable Government which can honour its obligations.

Lord Jowitt welcomed the steps taken by President Chiang to terminate the one-party Government and inaugurate a constitutional Government and described the Communist refusal to associate themselves with the constitutional developments as "unfortunate." He hoped that the Communists will not reject further opportunity to participate in a representative democratic Government.

He continued that the British Government hoped American efforts of mediation will continue and that Britain will give all possible moral support for this purpose, both to the American Government and to the Chinese National Government.

Apart from the question of the Government-Communist conflict, the debate also showed concern over the present negotiations for a new Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty. The new treaty will involve the future of British shipping in China and the recovery of British properties.—Central News.

Red Comment
Nanking, Jan. 25. Lord Lindsay's appeal made during the China debate in the House of Lords actually represents the voice of the fair-minded British public, who feel deep concern over China's problem, the Communist spokesmen, Wang Ping-nan, stated here today, commenting on the British peer's speech.

He added: "It proves that the anti-Communist civil war prosecuted by the Kuomintang reactionaries has aroused the regret of democratic minded circles abroad."

ATTEMPTED RAPE, MURDER

Nanking, Jan. 25. An attempted rape and murder tragedy took place in this city in which a young woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her nephew when she resisted the youth's attempt to rape her, it was reported today.

After three days' investigation, the police today arrested the alleged murderer, Li Yen-chang, who was said to have told the police that he killed the woman because she scolded him over his alleged attempt that night to rape her.—Central News.

China And Paracels

Nanking, Jan. 25. China backed its claim to the former French-held Paracel Islands off the east coast of Indo-China by dispatching the 10,000-ton transport "Munee" loaded with reinforcements for the garrison already established, Chinese sources said.

The newspaper "Ta Kung Pao" said French troops had landed on two small islands of the group and were demanding that the question of ownership be settled by United Nations arbitration. Official French sources denied troops had been landed in the islands.

The Japanese took the group from the French in 1940.—Associated Press.

Manila, Jan. 25. FEATI, whose planes were grounded following the "Miss Luzon" crash in the China Sea is resuming domestic operations today with planes previously inspected and cleared by the Bureau of Aeronautics.

Five FEATI planes have been cleared so far and inspections are continuing.—United Press.

Prominent Moslems Arrested

Lahore, Jan. 25. Six Moslem League leaders of the Punjab, including the President of the Punjab Moslem League, were arrested yesterday for resisting a search by police of the Moslem National Guard headquarters.

Later, the chief secretary of the Punjab Government said that the Moslem National Guards "have been declared unlawful" in the Punjab, and that the searches were made in connection with this declaration.

The Chief of Police of Lahore, J. P. Norton said that the arrest of League leaders was made under an ordinary law on charges of obstructing the police.

Also arrested was the leader of the All-India Women's Moslem League, the Begum Kamaluddin, who was taken into custody together with three women students at the home of the League Guard Commander where they had declined to permit the police to make a search for some hours.

Hundreds of uniformed and armed men were seized with office records at the Guard offices.

Nearly 200 persons were reported injured last night when police charged with clubs at Moslem League demonstrations in front of the Charing Cross police station.

Thirty other persons were taken into custody during the day as a result of demonstrations against the arrests and for declaring that the Guard was illegal in the Punjab.—Associated Press.

Croydon Airport Crash

London, Jan. 25. A Spenser Airways Dakota plane bound for Rome with 18 passengers crashed on take-off at Croydon airport today and burned with probably only four survivors, according to first reports.

Spenser Airways is a South African organization. Three persons injured in the crash were admitted to Croydon General Hospital. Four bodies—believed to be those of a crew member and three passengers, one of them a woman—were brought from the Dakota, which burst into flames and was consumed in a few minutes.

The plane, whose passenger list was said to have included some Roman Catholic nuns, crashed into a Czech Airlines plane standing on the airport perimeter track.

Air Commodore Veron announced that the plane "burned out" and "there are few survivors—probably only four."

The Czech Airlines plane was undergoing a test for a certificate of airworthiness, and carried no passengers. Captain Spenser, head of the Spenser Airlines, who was piloting the plane, was among the dead.

Two Babies
Those killed included two babies—aged five months and two and one-half months—and their parents, according to reports from the airfield. Three nuns died in the crash. It was thought 11 persons were killed and five were injured, although a passenger list was not immediately available.

It was later established that seven persons, one of whom was believed to be an air hostess, were admitted to Croydon General Hospital suffering from shock.—United Press.

Reuter adds that ambulances, firemen and rescue squads rushed to the scene and before the flames gained control of both aircraft managed to extricate a number of people, some of whom were taken to hospital.

Both planes then became a tangled mass of twisted metal and all hope of bringing out living persons had to be abandoned until the fire was extinguished.

Two passengers and five members of the crew—one believed to be an air hostess—were taken to hospital. They were all suffering from shock.—Reuter.

THE WEATHER

An intense anticyclone over Siberia over Manchuria, and most of China, with depressions on the southern edge of this anticyclone are moving eastward along the South China coast. A deepening depression over Hokkaido is moving NE.

Forecast: Moderate easterly winds offshore; variable, mainly light, easterly winds onshore; weather cloudy with periods of rain or drizzle.

Yesterday's weather:
Maximum: 61.1 deg. Fah.
Minimum: 58.4 deg. Fah.
Sunshine: 761.
Rainfall: 12.5 mm. Total since Jan. 1: 62.5 mm. as against an average of 42.5 mm.

Readings at 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
Baro. at m.s.l.: 1011.1, 1017.4 mb.
Rel. Humidity: 64 89 %
Dew Point: 55 58 deg. F.
Wind Direction: E E
Wind Force: 20 15 knots.

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Girl Witness Of Two Murders

Dymchurch, Jan. 25. Margaret Mary Wigley, 12-year-old witness of two "cool and calculated" murders, told the Coroner yesterday from the comforting arms of a woman friend how her father shot her mother and "Uncle Fred" in cold blood.

"Uncle Fred" was Frederick Russell, 56-year-old maintenance engineer who had been "living with us for about two years when we were living in South Wales. Mummy and Uncle Fred first met in an ammunition factory where they worked together during the war," Margaret said.

"Daddy" was 34-year-old David Vincent Wigley, who committed suicide after shooting his wife Elizabeth and "Uncle Fred."

"I had been living at the bungalow with Mummy and Mr. Russell—whom I called Uncle Fred—about two months," Margaret said "on the witness stand. Last Tuesday afternoon when I went for a walk along the beach I saw a man walking toward me. I didn't know it was my father until he called out 'Margaret.'"

"He asked where I was living but I wouldn't tell him," Margaret continued. "Then he stopped a woman and she pointed towards the Link's estate, and I saw him turn into the entrance. I went to tell Uncle Fred. He was working quite close. Then I went home. Mummy opened the door and I went in."

"My father was standing near the front looking out of the front windows. He said he had been looking for us for four days. Then he said, 'I'm going to finish this up.' Mummy said 'What do you mean?'"

Margaret said: "Uncle Fred had come in then and sat at the edge of the table. My father took a pistol out of his pocket and Mummy said 'Uncle Fred 'He has a gun.' But Uncle Fred said 'A gun doesn't worry me.'"

Heard A Shot
"Mummy said 'Let Margaret get out of this,' and Uncle Fred got out of his chair and walked towards my father. Then I heard a shot. Mummy and I ran out into the scullery. I turned into the bathroom and Mummy went on into the garden."

"Then I heard several more shots—three or four there were," Margaret continued. "I stayed in the bath-

room for a bit and I heard my father calling. He knew where I was and said 'Come out, they're dead.'"

"They're Both Dead"
"At first I didn't come out but he came to the door and pushed it open and when I came out he had a pistol in his hand. He said 'Go and fetch the police. They're both dead and I am going to shoot myself!'"

"I ran across to Mrs. Barrington (a neighbour) and just as I got to the back door I heard another shot," Margaret said. "When I went across I saw Mummy lying in the garden."—United Press.

Attempt To
Cut Off
Girls' Hair
Berlin, Jan. 24. Berlin newspapers today reported the first attempted haircutting incident in months.

Seven Berlin boys, their age ranging from 15 to 17, were brought into court and severely reprimanded for attempting to cut the hair of four German girls they had seen riding in an American automobile to a movie in the Neukölln borough of American occupied Berlin.

The girls succeeded in escaping with their hair intact. Meanwhile, the Soviet Army newspaper "Tagliche Rundschau" announced that the Russian occupation authorities have arrested 26 "gangsters" illegally wearing Russian uniforms.

The gang members were charged with terrorising the German population in Berlin and the Russian zone.—United Press.

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Drastic Action Soon In Palestine?

Jerusalem, Jan. 24.
Highly placed quarters foresaw today the chance that unless Jews here take immediate action against extremism the military would step in with drastic action to stamp it out.

This source said that if Jews failed to act the military might have to move by dividing the country into military areas of "occupation" and that it would be "unpleasant in suppressing terror." He said he did not necessarily mean martial law.

Highly placed quarters pictured Palestine as being on the eve of a big decision from London and said that the Palestine Government's feeling regarding the forementioned need is a clear policy and that the Government was doing everything to emphasise the need for finality.

These quarters doubted the Grand Mufti would return to Palestine soon and said that any Arab threat to security depended a great deal upon how

the neighbouring Arab states felt and even upon the Anglo-Egyptian treaty question.

General Sir Evelyn Barker, following his confirmation of the death sentence on Day Gramer, an Irqun member, ordered all theatres out of bounds to troops. Previously cafes and movie houses had been ruled out of bounds.—United Press.

WIVES' PRIORITY

The following names have been added to the wives' priority list:—7A—Carmen Maria Theresa Meadows, 10A—Sarah Emille Rees, 121A—Jean Houston Littlejohn, 123A—Margaret Katherine Browne, 118A—Eileen Doris Hargreaves, 149H—Mary Goodban, 292—Eva Mary Russ.

Burns Night Dinner

The immortal memory of Robbie Burns was celebrated in traditional style last night at a dinner given at the Hong Kong Hotel Roof Garden by the Chieftain and Members of the Hong Kong St. Andrew's Society. It was the first local Burns Night celebration in six years.

At the official table were the Chieftain, Mr. A. S. MacKichan; His Excellency the Governor, Sir Mark Young, G.C.M.G.; the Hon. Mr. R. D. Gillespie, the Hon. Mr. M. M. Watson, Messrs. H. R. Sturt, D. H. Blake, H. J. Tebut, J. F. MacGregor, N. C. MacGregor, H. B. Dowbiggen, J. R. Jones, F. A. Pollock, H. Barton, D. L. Prophet and C. B. Brown.

The toast to the "Immortal Memory" was proposed by Prof. R. K. M. Simpson, who began his address by noting that 50 years before the birth of Burns another Scotsman, of the fervently patriotic cosmopolitan type prevalent in his time, had ventured a quotation that could well be taken as a prophecy on the genius that was Burns.

The Scotsman in question was Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun and his quotation was so famous, Prof. Simpson said; that it was often misquoted and hardly ever acknowledged. It read: "If a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation."

Like many another prophecy these words of Fletcher held an implicit as well as an explicit truth. The explicit meaning was fairly obvious. It was that the making of a song which generations love to sing is a far higher achievement than the making of a law which millions have to obey.

Democracy being the best form of Government which humanity can hope to achieve, it had still a disadvantage in that it encouraged a rush into legislation and away from verification.

Milestone

Speaking of the tenderness that Burns had infused into his verse as a historical milestone on the road to a more humane conception of life and living, Prof. Simpson said that to understand the full import of Burns' philosophy on the evolution of outlook it would be necessary to begin with Smollett's "Roderick Random," which could be reckoned to give a candid picture of what life was for ordinary people in the 18th century.

"As between man and man, inhumanity, brutality and savagery were taken for granted. Callousness was the established attitude. Then, compare the 19th century. There is still brutality in Dickens' 'Oliver Twist.' But men are no longer expected to be callous about it. They are expected to be ashamed of it. A fellow feeling for the suffering of others is established. Pity displaces callousness. And soon the great acts of humanitarian legislation make famous the Victorian era."

"What caused the change? Poets like Coleridge, Wordsworth and Shelley deserved much of the credit; but behind them, and before them and honoured by them was Burns. The rarest of all poets was the genuine pastoral. It was while working on the land at Mt. Oliphant, Lochlea and Mongiel—that Burns compiled his first poems, ploughing and sowing."

Burns had his full share of the miseries and misfortunes traditional to poets.

Despite the miseries and misfortunes, the outstanding incident of Burns' early manhood was a most romantic and exhilarating one. At the age of 27 he had decided that the best solution for his financial and amatory difficulties would be migration to the Colonies.

As a means of paying his passage to Jamaica, he hit upon the mad, romantic idea of publishing a book of verse at Kilmarnock. The venture proved such a success that it not only earned him twice what he wanted for his passage but it made him so famous in his native land as to put emigration out of the question.

The Toast to "The King" was proposed by the Chieftain, Mr. A. S. MacKichan. Mr. D. A. Cumming proposed "The Lassies," Mr. C. G. Smith replying. The Chieftain proposed "The Guests."

Replying, His Excellency the Governor said that he always felt himself at a loss at a

TAMAKI DENIES OFFICERS FORCED TO WORK

At yesterday's hearing of the War Crimes Trial of Lieut. Tamaki Koji, Sgt. Chiba Arashi and Sgt. Fujita Horoji, the first accused, Tamaki, said that when an application for 450 kilos of sugar for POWs was sanctioned, it was possible to prepare papaya and orange jam, as well as lemon and orange squash for consumption by POWs.

Continuing his examination-in-chief, Tamaki said that although POWs were allowed to eat some of the sugar, they were not allowed to take any sugar out of the factory. To have done so would have resulted in the sugar factory being punished by Government, as a tax was payable on the sugar.

An application was made for approximately 450 kilos of sugar to be issued to the POWs and this application was granted. The sugar received was rationed out to POWs in accordance with the type of work they performed. As a result of this issue of sugar, it was also possible to make papaya and orange jam, as well as lemon and orange juice for consumption by POWs.

Tamaki denied the allegation of Mr. Comfort that POW Officers were forced to work. Tamaki said that they were only employed to look after the messing and rest house.

POWs who were engaged in some form of work were paid a daily wage in accordance with the scale laid down by Japanese regulations.

The fitness or otherwise of a POW to perform any work was decided upon by the POW

Medical Officers. Sick POWs were never sent out to work, but it sometimes so happened that a POW became sick while at work.

Visits To Village
In view of the climatical conditions, POWs went out to work at 8 a.m. and returned at 5.30 p.m. In addition to half hour breaks in the morning and afternoon, POWs were also allowed two and a half hours rest during the meal hour.

POWs were permitted to walk about the Camp compound quite freely and without any restrictions. Sometimes, when POW Officers made a request that they be allowed to visit a nearby village, this request was granted. On these visits, they were accompanied by an unarmed Japanese N.C.O.

Tamaki said that five types of ration were issued to the POWs. Of these five types of ration, four were issued to POWs without any charge, while the fifth type, which was obtained from the Canteen, was issued against coupons received by men on working parties.

Tamaki told the Court that the sick and death percentage at Heito Camp was a little higher than that of other Camps. He attributed this, inter alia, to air raids, the hot climate, malaria and the fact that Heito Camp was used as a transit station.

Tamaki said that POWs at Heito Camp came from Singapore, the Philippines and Java. A number of the POWs had already contracted malaria before they came to Heito Camp, particularly the POWs from the Philippines.

Camp Not Marked
When a POW died at Heito Camp, the matter was reported by telephone to Headquarters. Subsequently, a death certificate and certificate of burial, prepared by the POW Medical Officers, was submitted to Headquarters.

Tamaki said that when American bombers raided Heito Camp, 26 deaths occurred among the POWs, 13 of whom died instantaneously. Between 40 to 50 POWs were injured.

At the time of the Battle of Taiwan Sea, many aeroplanes could be seen overhead during the day and it was not possible to do any cooking until the evening. As it was not possible to bring vegetables into the Camp, sweet potatoes were used.

There was no mark or sign at Heito Camp to indicate that it was a POW Camp. Tamaki said that he had been instructed by Headquarters not to make any such mark or sign.

Hearing was then adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Not Allowed To "Save Face"
Sentence of two months' hard labour without the option of a fine was passed on Tsang Chung-wan, S. T. & I. clerk, by Mr. E. H. Sainsbury at the Central Magistracy yesterday.

Mr. Sainsbury said that any person found guilty on charges of bribery and extortion should not be allowed to "save face" by paying a fine.

Mr. Hon. who appeared for Tsang, applied for a stay of execution on the ground that he was appealing against the conviction.

Bail in the sum of \$2,000 cash and \$1,000 bond, surety was granted pending hearing of the appeal.

celebration of the anniversary of Scotland's great national poet to emulate the achievements of the speakers who came before. It resembled a trial where one would be judged "not only on his capacity for elucidation but for appreciation."

His Excellency said that though coming from the wrong side of the Tweed he was still an admirer of the work of the great poet who was being honoured and it had given him great pleasure to hear quotations from so many lovely poems both in speech and song. His Excellency congratulated the Society on their rapid re-emergence on the scene after the occupation.

The evening was enlivened by a musical programme of selections from Burns, the solo contributors being Messrs. R. M. Keown, J. Macleod and A. Morrison, with Mr. A. J. Leask accompanying on the piano. The haggis was piped in by Mr. M. S. Cumming, the procession comprising Mr. A. D. Wyllie with the haggis.

New Year Party For Children

The Kowloon Branch of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children and Commando Brigade were joint hosts at a New Year Party for children yesterday afternoon at Gun Club Hill, when there was an attendance of more than 700.

Besides the usual fun of the fair, some innovations in entertainment were introduced. One of the most popular of these proved to be the jeep rides round the football ground and capacity-loads of youngsters stormed every available vehicle.

Another special thrill was horseback riding. There were pirates, clowns and conjurers in attendance but tea, cakes and biscuits, as always, stole the show and the final surprise was a distribution of toys and sweets.

In attendance were children from the R.A.F. Boys' Club, the T.C.H. Boys' Club, the Kowloon Welfare Centre and the Talpo Orphanage. The smaller children were accompanied by their mothers.

Yeoman work was done by the ladies of the F.A.N.Y. as the tea and cake department was subjected to continuous and endless demand. Members of the H.K.S.P.C. were in attendance, keeping the show going, assisted by numerous volunteer entertainers from 3 Commando Brigade.

Among those present were the Rt. Rev. N. V. Halward, Brig. J. H. C. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Latimer, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Loseby, Mrs. G. S. P. Heywood, Mrs. W. E. Bernacchi, Mr. Brook Bernacchi, Mr. G. P. de Martin, Col. and Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. G. E. Yeoh, Mrs. Lai Yue-hing, Mrs. H. K. Hoh, Mrs. C. P. Ho, Mrs. Y. O. Lee, Major J. B. Kie and Mrs. Arthur Perry.

APPOINTED

The following appointments etc. were gazetted yesterday:—
Mr. R. R. Todd to act as Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

Mr. B. C. K. Hawkins resumed duty as Labour Officer.

Mr. R. R. Todd and Mr. B. C. K. Hawkins appointed Cadet Officers, Class I.

Government biscuits, bread, noodles, peanut oil, woolen and worsted yarn and textiles and knitted goods of all descriptions (including made-up goods) have been deleted from the schedule of prohibited exports.

A fine of \$20 or seven days was imposed by Cdr. Ryder, Marine Magistrate, on Kwok Ping, master of a trading junk, for leaving the waters of the Colony on the evening of Jan. 24 without a night permit.

Matteotti's Murder "An Accident"

Rome, Jan. 24.
America Dumini, bull-necked former vice-president of the Fascist secret police and alleged leader of five men who kidnapped and murdered the Italian Socialist leader, Matteotti, claimed today that "Matteotti's murder was an accident—we never killed him."

Dumini testified in his own defense on the third day of his trial and gave his version of this political murder, his 19th, as the indictment said Dumini "gave eighteen versions of the crime" since arrested.

Dumini claimed that he had no political experience whatsoever and also he knew nothing about the political speech which Matteotti was going to deliver on the day he was abducted.

Dumini admitted that he drove the car in which Matteotti was taken from Rome to a lonely spot 23 miles away where his body was dumped into a clump of bushes. He claimed that arrangements for the murder were made by Albino Volpi who is now dead, adding that "for twenty years we felt our guilt but not our responsibility for the deed."

Like Rossi, Dumini claimed that the order for Matteotti's slaying was given by Giovanni Marinelli, former Fascist Party business manager.—United Press.

Index Of Wholesale Prices In H.K.

The following index of wholesale prices has been constructed on the basis of declared quantities and c.i.f. values of commodities imported into the Colony; the index numbers are not "weighted," the year 1938 has been selected as the base period, as representing a normal year.

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Foodstuffs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Textiles	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metals & Minerals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Beans	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (wheat)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (maize)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (barley)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (oats)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (rye)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (sorghum)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (millet)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (buckwheat)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (other)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flour (total)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wheat	100.0	100.0	100.0
Maize	100.0	100.0	100.0
Barley	100.0	100.0	100.0
Oats	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rye	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sorghum	100.0	100.0	100.0
Millet	100.0	100.0	100.0
Buckwheat	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Cotton (raw)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton (spun)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	100.0	100.0	100.0
Silk	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Iron	100.0	100.0	100.0
Steel	100.0	100.0	100.0
Aluminum	100.0	100.0	100.0
Copper	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Foodstuffs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Textiles	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metals & Minerals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Foodstuffs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Textiles	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metals & Minerals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Foodstuffs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Textiles	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metals & Minerals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Foodstuffs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Textiles	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metals & Minerals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	1st 1/2 yr.	2nd 1/2 yr.	1946
Foodstuffs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Textiles	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metals & Minerals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Miscellaneous	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Breach Of Price Control

For selling on December 12, a jar of Vegemite at \$1.20 when the controlled price was 55 cents, Koo Shing-cheong of the Shu Hing Company, Des Voeux Road Central, was yesterday fined \$200.

Pleading guilty on behalf of the defendant, Mr. M. A. da Silva said that it was not a deliberate attempt to commit a breach of the Price Control Regulations. The jar was sold by mistake. The jar was the balance of two jars left behind from a consignment which had been purchased at \$1 a jar in June last.

Posted all over the shop were notices requesting customers to bring to the notice of the management any infringement of Price Control Regulations. Inspector Noloth, who prosecuted, said that this was the defendant's third offence.

Price Controls

The following additions to the Price Control schedule were gazetted yesterday:—
Aerated Waters & Soft Drinks.

	Maximum	Retail Price
Coca-Cola, iced (per bottle)	0.40	
Coca-Cola, uniced (per bottle)	0.35	
Foodstuffs		
CHIEFSE		
Maxam, Processed Cheese	\$1.30	
per 12 oz. tin.		

	Maximum	Retail Price
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Cars		
Wolseley 18 H.P.		
(each)	12,900.00	
M.G. TC Midget 2		
Seater (each)	8,690.00	
The following have been deleted:—		
Foodstuffs		
Maximum		
Retail Price		

	Maximum	Retail Price
Sweets (locally manufactured)		
Hard Sweets (per lb.)	1.50	
Soft Sweets (per lb.)	2.00	
Cocoanut Candy (per lb.)	2.50	
Nougat (per lb.)	3.50	
Raw Cotton Sweets (per lb.)	2.40	
Vitafee Toffees—		
Loose packing (per lb.)	4.00	
Large box (per box)	4.50	
Small box (per box)	2.00	
Package of 8 sweets (per pkt.)	0.50	
Package of 4 sweets (per pkt.)	0.25	
Single pieces (each)	0.05	
Yeast Toffee (per lb.)	2.50	
Willow Mints, MacRobertson's "Old Gold" (per pkt.)	40	

STOWAWAY CAUTIONED

Given a good character by the Captain of the s/s "Empire Planet," and by his own relative in Hong Kong who was prepared to go surety for him, Mon Lum was discharged with a caution by Mr. Latimer yesterday after he had pleaded guilty to the charge of being a stowaway on the s/s "Empire Planet" from Calcutta to Hong Kong.

Outlining the facts of the case, S/I Askew stated that defendant was discovered two days after the ship had left Calcutta, when he gave himself up. He was alleged to have told the Captain that he was formerly a ship's fireman and was voluntarily discharged at Calcutta two years ago. Unable to find work there, and being desirous of returning to Hong Kong, he stowed away.

Mon, continued S/I Askew, was given work to do on board the ship. He did it so well that, when he was handed over to the Police on arrival of the ship on Jan. 21, the Captain gave a very good report as to his character.

Accused, said S/I Askew, had a relative here, a businessman of sound standing, who was prepared to go surety for him, and who stated that defendant was a man of unblemished character. In view of the circumstances of the case, concluded S/I Askew, the Police were not pressing the charge and were prepared to allow Mon to remain in the Colony.

Quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Saigon on account of smallpox.



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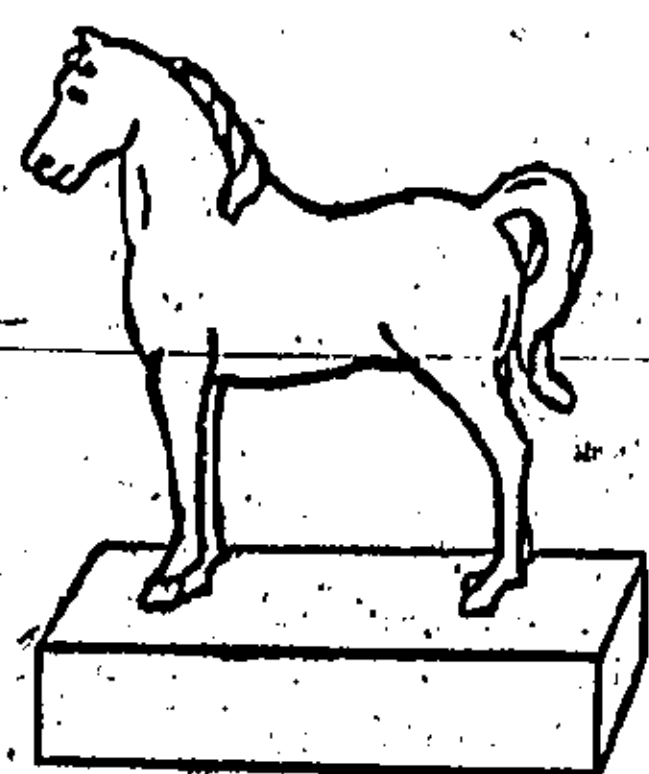
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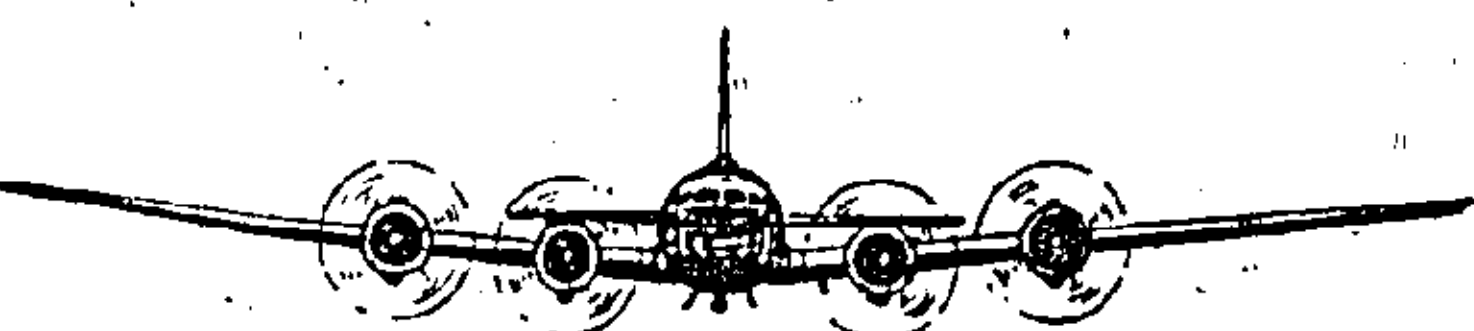
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MARRIAGE

The marriage is announced and will shortly take place between Frederick Charles Duxon, of the Douglas Steamship Company, and Mrs. Alice Florence Tester, residing at Kowloon Hotel.

RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCE

That commercial houses, big and small, should fidget under official controls, is more or less automatic. Even the best operated of systems, and none yet devised, here or anywhere else, has ever been perfect, creates anomalies that arouse criticism, and difficulties that hamper "bona fide trading" most irritatingly. The subordination in Hong Kong of individual commercial initiatives to the official interpretation of the Colony's wider interests, economically and financially, has been insisted upon over an extensive field. It is not surprising, therefore, that there has recently developed a growing volume of argument that the justification for tight government control has so diminished, as recovery has proceeded, that substantial modification is essential now to a genuinely stable economy and to normal business prosperity. All points of control—retail prices by S. T. and L. licences by the Import and Export Department, exchange by the Financial Secretary—are under fire, the contention being that what might have been deemed necessary immediately after the liberation, when every class of commodity was in acute short supply, cannot be justified indefinitely. And it has to be acknowledged that a good case can be made out. Exchange control will be required in Hong Kong for some considerable time to come, but there is much to be said in favour of adopting the suggestion that the responsibility be passed to the banks, together with measures to preserve U.S. dollar funds now finding their way into the free market under a system which, experience suggests, offers premiums to the "astute" and the speculator, and penalises the straight forward trader operating through legitimate channels. The complaint is also made, not without cause, that the present system tends to work to the advantage of the big man as against the small. Its rigidity is such that Hong Kong's prewar function as the principal entrepot centre for China is denied scope for development. The critics of prior control raise somewhat similar objections. That consumer necessities should be kept under official surveillance is universally accepted, though opinions may differ regarding what constitute necessities. It is obvious that we are still a long way from "that happy" position which government can trust the law of supply and demand to furnish adequate protection for the consumer. It remains a fact, nevertheless, that the prices of several important commodities on the local market are already below those set out in the official schedule, a clear indication that supply has already overtaken demand. In itself, that would be hailed as excellent. What importers stress is that in consequence of market fluctuations, they are at the mercy of S. T. and L. The law of supply and demand is not permitted to operate except where it occasions losses. They cannot make on the roundabouts what they lose on the swings, as they would normally, because no account is taken of losses on one transaction when the selling price is set on another. Sympathy will, inevitably, be reserved. Nevertheless, in point of principle, the argument is difficult to counter. Last October and November, nearly all price controls were abolished in the United States. Supporters of government planning both in the British Isles and America predicted that the return to a free economy would be disastrous, and economic chaos. At first, gloomy prophecies seemed likely to be borne out, there was a sharp rise in retail prices. By December, however, the trend had set in the reverse direction and in many cases prices had dropped to below the original official ceilings. The implications are important. While parallels can be pushed too far—and obviously

South Africa Preparing A Royal Welcome

The deep-throated roar of "Bayate"—the Royal Zulu salute—shouted in unison by 50,000 Zulus in plumed head-dresses and leopard-skins at the great Indaba (or native assembly) to be held at Eshowe on March 19 will symbolise the tumultuous welcome which South Africa is preparing for the Royal family during their forthcoming visit to the Union and Rhodesia. They will spend 65 days, from Feb. 17 to April 24, in a comprehensive tour involving nearly 10,000 miles of travel by train, by plane and by car.

It will be the first time that a Sovereign has ever set foot on the veld, and all sections of the population, from the Cape to the Zambesi, are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty and affection to the King, the Queen and the Princesses.

Floodlit Mountain

Leaving Portmouthe on Feb. 17 in the battleship Vanguard, the Royal party will travel 6,500 miles in 17 days by sea round the West Coast of Africa to reach Capetown, where they will land near the spot on the Bay where 230 years ago a Dutch ship's doctor, Jan van Riebeeck, arrived with his little band of pioneers to build a fort in an unknown land, at that time half-way on the long route to the Orient.

In their tour the Royal family will make a wide circuit of the Union and will visit almost every corner of it from Table Mountain, at Capetown, which will be specially floodlit with coloured search-lights in their honour, to the Victoria Falls, 1,000 miles north of Pretoria.

They will see the country's vineyards, its goldfields, its diamond mines, its orchards and granaries, its game reserves and national parks, its busy industrial life and the many scenes of natural beauty for which the Union is so famous. Several trips will be made by air—notably the long flight from Pretoria to Salisbury, in Rhodesia—in the four-Viking aircraft of the King's Flight which, under the command of Air Commodore Telford, will fly out to South Africa at the end of this month.

Vast Game Reserves

The itinerary will be an exhausting one, although less so than the Royal visit to Canada in 1939, when 11,000 miles were covered in little more than 30 days. There will, of course, be the very heavy programme of official engagements inevitable to a Royal Progress, but every effort is being made by the Union Government to provide for several periods of rest and relaxation in the national parks, where the King will be able to observe at leisure, in their natural surroundings, all manner of wild game that roam the veld in protected freedom.

The Kruger National Park, the world's greatest game reserve, covers 8,000 square miles, affording sanctuary to lions, elephants, hippopotami, giraffes, zebras and vast herds of smaller game. In this great tract of primeval Africa the King will spend several days, and he will hear at night the cries of wild beasts echoing eerily from the dark veld surrounding his encampment. Special gatherings have been organised to afford the native populations an opportunity to see their Supreme Chief, and three Indabas will be held; at Umatsi for the Xosa tribes, at Eshowe for the Zulus and at Maseru for the Basutos. Scores of oxen will be roasted over open fires, vast quantities of native beer will be drunk, and native dances and speech-making will be features of these picturesque and colourful ceremonies.

Special commemorative medals will be struck for presentation to the Chiefs, and for many generations to come Africans will date the events of their lives from the ever memorable day when the Great King came to visit their kraals. The great "Pitso" (gathering) at Maseru, held in a grassy ring under the shadow of the mighty Maluti Mountains, will be an impressive sight, with the vast concourse of natives gathered in

conditions in Hong Kong and the United States cannot be compared—there is at least the lesson that given a fair chance, a free market will finally adjust itself to an even poise between supplier and consumer. This is not the time to suggest that all controls in Hong Kong should come off. We have, however, reached the stage when the situation should be kept under constant study with progressive relaxation in view.

a deep ring, mounted on their shaggy ponies and wearing their large straw hats or fur caps, with vivid blankets of every hue making a kaleidoscope of colour against the green grass and the blue hills in the background.

Another magnificent spectacle will be at the great Zulu Indaba at Eshowe, where Cyprian Baklazulu, a youth of 22, great-grandson of the mighty Zulu king, Cetshwayo, now heir-apparent to the Zulu Royal House, with dominance over more than 1,000,000 of his subjects, will be presented to the King.

Scenic Grandeur

In Southern Rhodesia the King will visit the famous Victoria Falls—"Mosi-oa-Tunya" or "The Smoke that Thunders," as the natives call them—with their huge clouds of sunlit spray rising incessantly from the mighty chasm. He will see the vast expanse of tumbling waters, a mile and a quarter wide, varying

BY DOUGLAS WILLIAMS

who will travel with the Royal party as Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent

from the fairy cascades of the Eastern Cataract to the mighty white sheet of the Main Fall.

A pilgrimage will be made to Rhodesia's Tomb in the Matopo Hills, where, amid wild and impressive scenery of tumbled masses of granite, in a grave cut from the solid rock, the founder of the vast colony that bears his name is buried.

The tour starts from the Cape Province through the old Huguenot settlers. The Royal party will visit Stellenbosch University, returning to Capetown on Feb. 21, where the King will formally open Parliament.

The itinerary continues along the coast with visits to the shipping centres of Port Elizabeth and East London, then through the Orange Free State and back to the sea at the great port of Durban.

The Royal party will then go north to the Transvaal and, after a week at Pretoria, the national capital, the King will fly to Rhodesia and will begin his homeward journey by train on April 16 from Bulawayo, once the site of Lobengula's Royal Kraal, which was destroyed in the Matabele War.

They then continue southwards through the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Mafeking memorable for its heroic de-

fence in the Boer War, and on to Kimberley, with its famous diamond fields.

Capetown Ceremonies

After a short stop at Beaufort West in the rich wool area of the Karroo, the party reaches Capetown on April 20 and sails for home on the 24th. Ceremonies at Capetown will include the conferment on the Queen of the degree of Doctor of Laws, and the reviewing by Princess Elizabeth of several rallies of Girl Guides and youth movements.

The Royal family, their entourage of 29 members of the Household and staff, and the accredited Press, will travel and live in two special trains, one of them a pilot train which will precede the Royal train by about 10 minutes during the tour. The honour of conducting the Royal train will be shared by 100 drivers and 87 garages, each of the drivers taking charge of the section of the route which he is the most familiar with.

The weight of the train, 750 tons, is so great that in some places three engines will be needed to haul it up steep gradients, and its length has necessitated the construction of special sidings and loop-lines to accommodate it. Expert chefs will prepare the meals, and two of the South African Railways' finest dining-cars have been renovated and redecorated, and equipped with tables and arm-chairs made of the finest solid wood.

Personal Staff

Their majesties' personal staff will consist of the following: Sir Alan Lascells, the King's Private Secretary, and Major Mienner Azeade, the Queen's Private Secretary; Major Thomas Harvey, the Queen's Private Secretary; Surgeon General Henry White, R.N., the King's Medical Officer; Captain Lewis Maclean, the Queen's Medical Officer; Major Peter T. Wainman and Lt. Colonel Peter Ashmore, Equerries to the King; and three Ladies-in-Waiting, Lady Harlech and Lady Deila Peel in attendance on the Queen, and Lady Margaret Egerton in attendance on Princess Elizabeth.

The Royal party will find the weather in South Africa at the time of their visit mild and agreeable. They will arrive at the end of the rainy season and towards the end of the South African summer.

Recorded temperatures for February in Durban average 68 degrees, and in Johannesburg 64 degrees. Lightweight suits are worn, and during his visits to the game reserves the King will probably be able to wear tropical kit.

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

FREE BID SHOWS POWER

Your response with a suit bid of one to your partner's lower-ranking suit bid can ordinarily be on a fairly weak hand, because of very simple logic. The purpose is to give your partner another chance to bid if he has a power-house just short of an original game-demand bid of two. But you don't have to strain in his behalf if the intervening opponent has overcalled him. The opponent has guaranteed, by a partner another chance. So then you can afford to pass unless you have at least a moderate amount of strength, for your bid in that situation is a "free bid" made of your own will and accord, to show real values.

S: K J 8 7 4
H: 8 4
D: 6 2
C: Q 7 4 2

S: 6
H: A Q J
D: Q J 9 5
C: K 10 9

S: A 10 9 3
H: K 6 5 3
D: 8 4
C: 8 6 5 3

S: Q 5 2
H: 9 7 2
D: A K 10 7 3
C: A J

(Dealer: South. Neither side vulnerable.)
South: West: North: East:
1. 1 D 1 H 1 S 3 H
2. 2 D 2 H Pass 3 H
4 S Pass Pass Dbl
2. 1 D 1 H Pass 1 S
Pass 1 NT Pass 2 H
Pass 4 H

read it quite properly as showing at least a half a trick more strength than North actually possessed, as there was no need for North merely to "keep it open." Even at that, it might have been sounder for South to bid only 3-Spades on his third turn, and North would naturally have gone no farther.

At the other table, after North failed to overcall West on his first turn, South properly retired into his shell and had nothing further to say. As a consequence, West felt extra strong after East showed a belated fit for the hearts, a three-card fit, since he bid something else on his first turn instead of supporting the major.

Three cards were enough for West's suit, however, and he blithely "skipped" into game. North got set two tricks in his doubled spade game and West was down one in his undoubled 4-Hearts—a total swing of 350 points.

Tomorrow's Problem

S: None
H: Q 9 8 5 4
D: 4 3 2
C: K 9 7 5 4

S: 8 7 5 2
H: A K
D: 10 8 5
C: A J 6 2

S: A K J 10
H: 10 3 2
D: A K Q 9 7
C: None

(Dealer: South. Neither side vulnerable.)
What signal is vital to defense against South's honor-greedy contract of 4-Spades on this rubber deal?



Maj.-General Erskine pictured in the Western Desert when he was commanding the famous Seventh Armoured Division, the "Desert Rats."

Hong Kong's New G.O.C.

Major-General G. W. E. J. Erskine, Hong Kong's new G. O. C., has had a long and distinguished military career. He first joined the Army during the 1914-1918 Great War, being commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps a few months before the armistice, and seeing some weeks service in France and Belgium.

After the war he went to India, spending twelve years there from 1922-1928, and from 1931 to 1935, the last year being passed in Burma. He received his brevet majority in 1936 and his brevet Lieutenant Colonelcy two years later. On his return to England he was posted to the staff of Eastern Command and later to the 1st London Division (Territorial Army) as G. S. O. II, being promoted, on the outbreak of war, to G. S. O. I.

In June 1940 he was given command of the 2nd. Bn. R. R. C. which had been totally decimated at Calais. He raised this fresh 2nd. Bn. in England and trained it there. In December of the same year he was given the command of the 69th Infantry Brigade and five months later he sailed with it to the Middle East as part of the 50th Division. He served with his Brigade in Cyprus, North Iraq and Syria.

Western Desert
In February of the following year he was made Brigadier, General Staff 13th. Corps, in the Western Desert, a post he held until the conclusion of the battle of Alamein in November 1942, and for which he was awarded the D. S. O. He then joined Field Marshal Montgomery as his Chief of Staff for the 8th Army operations during the pursuit of Rommel up to the capture of Tripoli. In Jan. 1943, after the capture of Tripoli, during which operations General Harding was wounded, he was promoted Major General to command the 7th Armoured Division, the "Desert Rats," which he led for the rest of the campaign in North Africa including the final capture of Tunisia. For this he was awarded the C. B.

General Erskine next took part in the Sicily operations by taking over a small Armoured H. Q. attached to Field Marshal Montgomery's staff. Meanwhile the 7th Armoured Division was being re-equipped and trained for the Italian invasion. He led the Division at the landing at Salerno in Sept. 1943 and broke through with them for the capture of Naples and the crossing of the River Volturno. After this he flew home and the Division followed by sea.

Normandy Assault
After re-equipping in England he and his Division were assigned the task of immediately following up the assault on the Normandy beaches. Landing on D plus Day 1 the Division took a prominent part in the early operations. On the breakout at the Normandy bridgehead Gen. Erskine left his Division to become head of the Supreme Allied Expeditionary Force Mission to Belgium, and as such he represented the

Supreme Commander General Eisenhower to the Belgian Government. At this period he was closely involved in the rehabilitation of Belgium and the problems of restarting industry and solving the political difficulties which occurred at this time. For his services in Belgium he was made a Commander of the Legion of Merit (U.S.A.) and awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold the Second and the Medaille Militaire (Belgium). He was also awarded the Croix du Chevalier by the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, as Luxembourg also came under his jurisdiction while he was in Brussels.

In October 1945 he was appointed to command the 43rd Infantry Division in Germany. In January of next year he became Deputy Chief of Staff (Policy) at Military Government Headquarters in Berlin. He held this appointment for approximately one year and during this period represented the British Control Commission at the Inter-Allied Committee of Co-ordination in Berlin.

Siemens Directors Suspended
Berlin, Jan. 24.
British Military Government headquarters here announced tonight the suspension of three leading directors of the great Siemens, Schuckert and Halske electric concerns pending their appearance before a "gauche" commission.

The three men are Dr. Wolf Dietrich von Witzleben, Johann Georg Bankert and Bruno Gerhardt Pichmann. After the rejection of their appeals before a commission at Spandau, British sector of Berlin, in last October, the three men were directed to remain temporarily at their posts to assist the firm's rehabilitation. At Christmas, the whole Siemens concern, formerly the biggest industrial organisation in Berlin, was employing only 13,000 people compared with the last published figure of 240,000 in 1942. For the last month it has been entirely shut down through lack of coal.

ADD TO TALL STORIES

Berlin, Jan. 24.
The Russian-licensed newspaper, Berliner Zeitung, said today that British troops were secretly moving German prisoners of war from Bremen to the tropics.

The newspaper, under a German dateline said that ex-Wehrmacht soldiers volunteered to serve with the British Army, but many deserted just before boarding ship. Some transports were reported to be headed for British possessions in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.—United Press.

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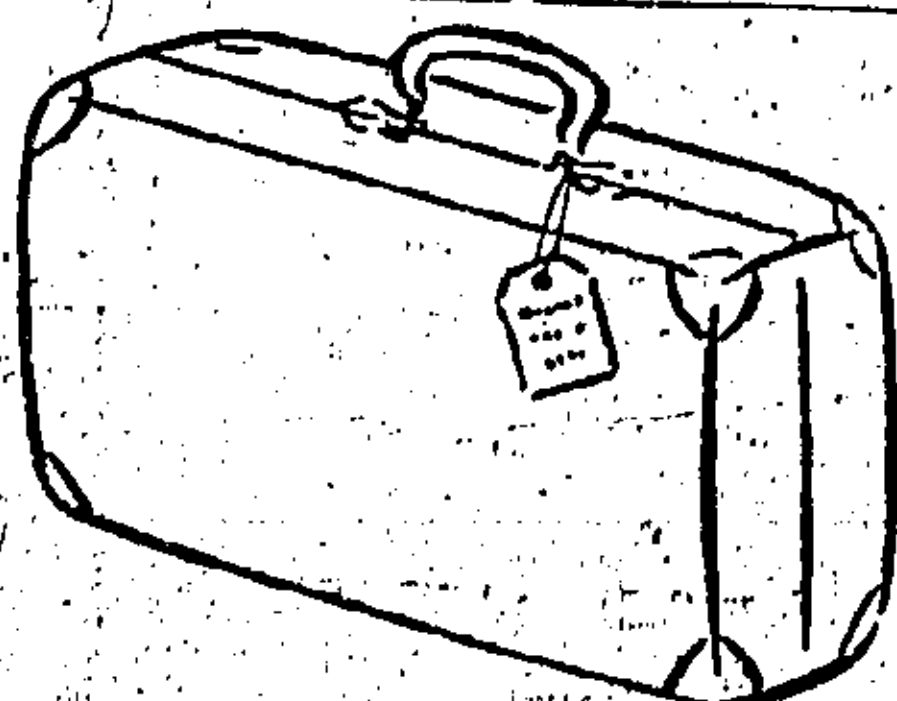
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ANGLO-SOVIET TREATY

Stalin Accepts Bevin's Assurances

Should Be Free Of Reservations

London, Jan. 24. Generalissimo Stalin has accepted the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin's assurance that the Anglo-Russian alliance is still in force. The Soviet official newspaper Pravda recently suggested that it was not. It based its suggestion on Mr. Bevin's Christmas broadcast in which he said that Great Britain "does not tie herself to anybody except in regard to her obligations under the Charter."

Britain complained that Mr. Bevin had been misrepresented through being quoted out of context, but Pravda yesterday rejected this complaint.

Tonight the British Foreign Office released the text of messages exchanged by Mr. Bevin and Stalin. Mr. Bevin's message, dated Jan. 18, said: "I am gratified at the friendly reception which was given to the Chief of Imperial General Staff in Moscow and I am studying with interest the account which he has given me of his conversations with you."

"We are, however, disturbed at the suggestion which you made to him that the Anglo-Soviet treaty of alliance and post-war collaboration might be regarded in London as 'suspended' in the air, since it might be regarded as superseded by the United Nations Organisation."

"This view has been attributed to me personally in a most misleading manner by Pravda, in an article of Jan. 15, which takes out of its context, and misinterprets one sentence in my broadcast of Dec. 22."

"In fact I said what all other major allies have said, namely that they based their policy on the United Nations Organisation."

"I cannot understand what is behind this line of reasoning and I am more amazed at Pravda's article since I understand from Field Marshal Montgomery that you said this was not your own view regarding the treaty. It is certainly not my view either."

Stalin's Reply

Generalissimo Stalin replied on Jan. 23, as follows:

"I must admit that your statement that Great Britain is not tied to anybody except in regard to her obligations arising out of the Charter caused me some perplexity. It seems to me that such a statement without a corresponding explanation, can be used by enemies of Anglo-Soviet friendship. For me it is clear that no matter what reservations there are in the Anglo-Soviet treaty and no matter how these reservations weaken the significance of the treaty in the post-war period, the existence of an Anglo-Soviet treaty imposes obligations on our countries."

"It was just these circumstances that I had in mind when I stated on Sept. 17, 1946, in my interview with Alexander Werth (the British correspondent in Moscow) that 'the Soviet Union is bound by a treaty of mutual assistance against German aggression with Great Britain' and that means she has obligations with regard to Great Britain not counting obligations arising from the Charter."

"However, your message and the statement of the British Government completely explain the affair and do not leave any room for misunderstandings. It is now clear that you and I share the same viewpoint with regard to the Anglo-Soviet treaty. As regards an extension of the Anglo-Soviet treaty, to which special reference is made in the British Government's statement, I must say that if one is to speak seriously of such an extension, then before extending this treaty it is

Bevin's Thanks

"Only" after such a procedure would it be possible to talk seriously of an extension of the treaty."

Mr. Bevin has requested the British Ambassador in Moscow to thank Stalin "for his very frank and helpful statement."

The statement to which Stalin refers in the last paragraph of his reply was made in a note complaining about Pravda. The passage reads:

"The Foreign Secretary, on behalf of the British Government, has several times urged the extension of the treaty and has expressed regret that the British Government's proposals to this effect have not found acceptance by the Soviet Government."—Reuter.

Texas Girl Meets The King

London, Jan. 24.

The King went down to Drury Lane last night to see his own official "Company of Comedians" but the visit was a great disappointment to one little five-year-old from Texas. "Where," demanded Mary Halliday, "is his crown if he is a king?"

The youngster, in a grown-up hair do for the occasion, almost stole the show from the Royal party thus proving herself a real chip of her famous mother, Mary Martin, stage and screen star.

Little Mary, however, liked all the ceremony attached to the visit for Drury Lane has entertained every monarch since it got its Royal Charter almost 300 years ago.

Her mother took her to the Royal Box and there the King patted her and Princess Margaret shook her hand and the Queen beamed at her and Viscount Mountbatten flashed his most winning smile.

Princess Elizabeth was not there, however—she had a chill. As one of its last public appearances before leaving for South Africa next week the Royal Family saw the charity performance of Noel Coward's operetta "Pacific—1860" in which red-haired Miss Martin stars. The King entered through the traditional door bearing the legend "King's side" but the custom of the manager lighting him to his box with a candle was allowed to lapse for the first time since 1874.

Big Mary said Little Mary learned one lesson important to her future stage-career from the Royal visit—rehearsal makes perfect.

"She had herself a long nap in the afternoon so she'd be fresh for the night," said the proud mother. "And she practiced her courtesy for a solid hour."—United Press.

Southampton, Jan. 24. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has accepted the invitation of the President Roosevelt Memorial Committee to come to London to unveil the memorial to her late husband on April 12, 1948, Sir Campbell Stuart, Chairman of the Fund, announced when he arrived here today on the Queen Elizabeth from New York.—Reuter.

America Wants Her Ships Back

Washington, Jan. 24.

A bill to require the immediate return of 229 American merchant ships, stated to be still operating under the British flag under the wartime lease-lend agreement, was introduced into the House of Representatives yesterday by Mr. Fred Bradley, Chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Mr. Bradley said that the ships were now being used commercially in competition with American vessels.

The measure is what is called a "concurrent resolution" and so does not require presidential approval. Its passage through the House would terminate the United States agreement with Britain of Nov. 24, 1944, made by the War Shipping Administration at the behest of the late President Roosevelt.

President Truman recently assured Britain that his proclamation on Dec. 31, announcing the end of hostilities did not affect these ships since the war emergency was still in operation.

Mr. Bradley asserted, however, that the agreement under which the ships were sent to Britain, provided that the vessels should be returned "six months after the termination of the war, as proclaimed by the President or such earlier time as the Congress of the United States by a current resolution may designate."

Mr. Bradley's resolution calls for the delivery of each of the ships to the United States upon the completion of any voyage in progress at the date of the measure's adoption and at the latest six months afterwards.—Reuter.

"DYING" MADE HER BETTER

Nancy, Jan. 24.

All night long Madame Karcher, aged 72, lay in a winding sheet in a circle of weeping relatives watching them prepare for her funeral and too ill to tell them she was alive.

At dawn the relatives ceased praying to change for the burial but when they returned they found the winding sheet disarranged and the "dying" woman breathing. The shock of her near interment so improved the health of Madame Karcher—who had suffered a stroke—that she now is out of danger.—United Press.

MUTINY TRIAL

Singapore, Jan. 24.

The court martial trying seven Indians on charges of mutinously attacking Captain Williams, their commanding officer and four British other ranks, at Christmas Island in 1942, today rejected the defence submission that if the attack was made after Captain Williams had given the order to hoist the white flag it did not amount to mutiny as the Japanese then became the lawful authority.

Five of the accused then elected to give evidence on oath in their defence. The other two reserved the right to give evidence or make statements after the others.

The court then adjourned.—Reuter.

Transport Workers' Victory

London, Jan. 24.

The claims of transport workers—submitted in a report of the court of inquiry which examined the workers' case after the recent 12-day strike—was today accepted by the National Joint Council for the Road Haulage Industry.

The strike, which started unofficially with road transport employees, later involved dockers and food handlers to an estimated total of 60,000 and caused the employment of troops to deliver meat and other foodstuffs.

A statement endorsed by the employers and trade union sides of the joint council said: "We are satisfied that the machinery has operated quickly and is likely to do so in any matters arising in future."

The employers' side stated that acceptance of the men's claim "will add many millions to the nation's transport bill."—Reuter.

English Girl In Experiment

London, Jan. 24.

Doctors all over England were interested today in the case of a yellow-haired girl of twelve who is one of the first persons in England to receive the new drug streptomycin.

The nature of her malady is obscure but its symptoms are recurrent fever and for three months every known test has been given to Annabel Bostock in a vain effort to isolate the possible organism.

Since the drug first was administered doctors have detected a lessening of fever fluctuations but they are making no promises because not only is the disease unknown but the British Medical Council has warned that streptomycin may accelerate death as well as save life.

The girl's father, James Forrest Bostock, is a shoe company executive. His friend, the Earl of Shrewsbury, arranged for the drug to be shipped here by a Portland, Oregon, doctor.—United Press.

Inflation Danger To World

New York, Jan. 25.

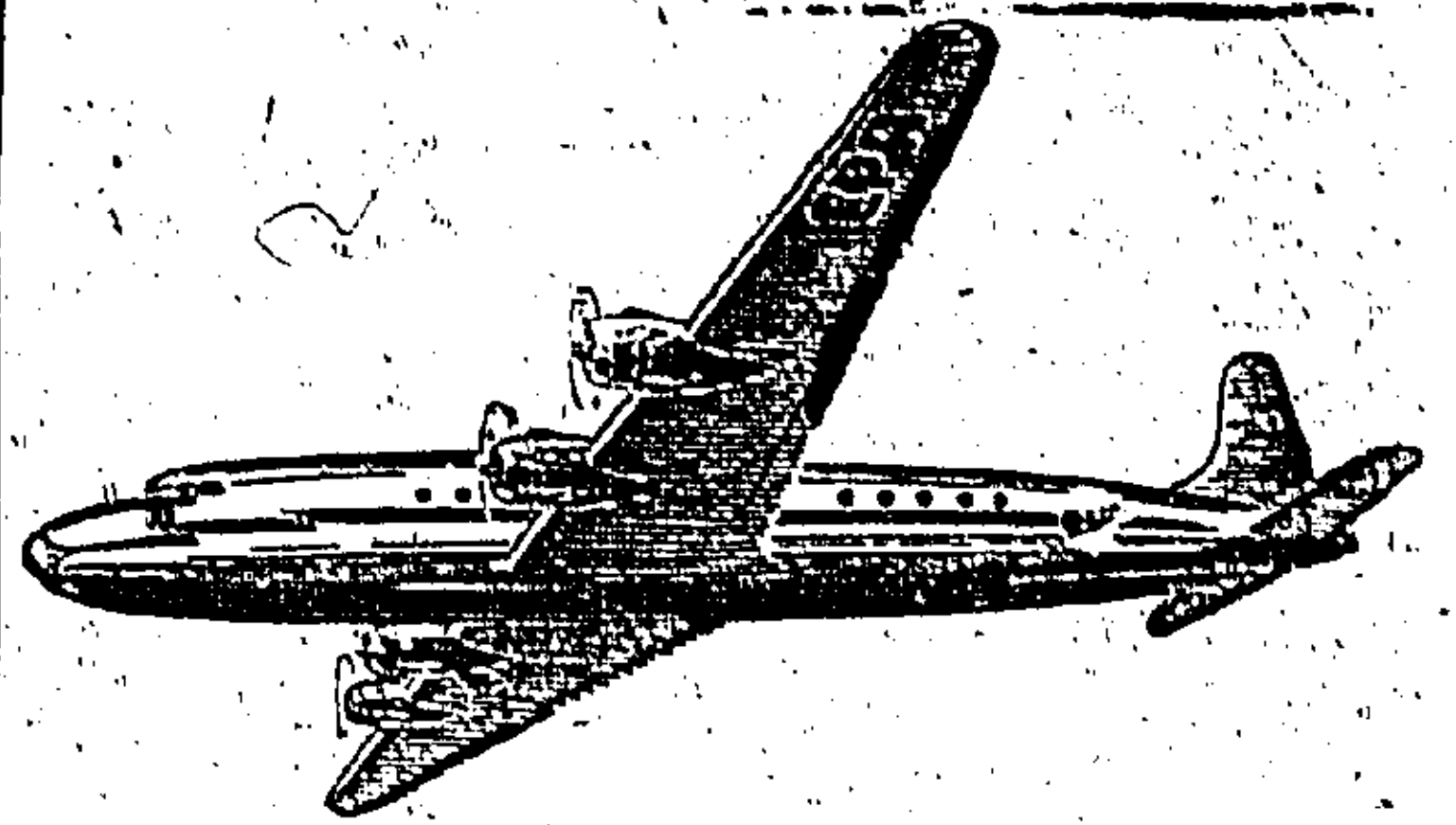
Winthrop W. Aldrich, President of the International Commerce, believes that the most immediate economic danger in most countries is to be inflation.

In a statement based on a report by economist Dr. Per Jacobson, Aldrich said that the next business difficulty probably would be brief, comparable to the depression of 1920-1921 rather than to the great depression of 1929-1933.

Aldrich said deficit financing and a policy of excessively cheap money are the principal monetary causes for inflation in many countries. He said the first task of Governments is to arrest the increase in buying power by bringing budgets under control so that no new

notes need to be printed and no credit further expanded. **Wage Increase Fallacy** Discussing economic forces evidenced in many countries, Aldrich said in his statement: "It should be clear everywhere that until sufficient supplies become available, an attempt to improve the people's standard of living merely by raising money wages is doomed to failure, for it will only lead to a rise in prices which will tend to imperil the integrity of national currencies."—Associated Press.

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HUGE BRITISH GIFT TO GEORGE CROSS ISLAND

London, Jan. 24.

The House of Commons today decided to increase from £10,000,000 to £30,000,000 Britain's financial aid to the George Cross island of Malta for restoration of war damage and general reconstruction.

The second reading—agreement in principle—of the bill giving effect to this was approved after an Opposition amendment seeking further improvement from Malta's point of view had been rejected by 174 votes to 59.

For the Government, Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, Colonial Secretary, said that the bill would provide financial arrangements so that the basis for sound responsible Government in Malta could be properly laid.

Malta would also continue to benefit under the British Government's £120,000,000 Colonial and Welfare Fund, even though she would be self-governing.

Replying to points raised in the debate, Mr. Glenvil Hall, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said he was positive that the Government had not broken faith. Experts had estimated Malta's war damage at £29,000,000 and Britain was giving over £30,000,000.

Britain had troubles as well as Malta. In view of the fact that Maltese paid no income tax, whereas the British carried a heavy burden, he was astonished that the Opposition should press for what amounted to a blank cheque to Malta.

He could not bind any future Government, but that did not mean that if in future it was felt right for further all-cation to be made that it should not be made.

Regarding Mr. Molson's re-

ference to reparation from Italy, Mr. Hall said that the Government was bound by the conclusions reached at the Paris Conference.—Reuter.

Opera Star Under Fire

Oslo, Jan. 24.

The independent newspaper "Verdens Gang" today launched an attack on the wartime activities of opera star Kirsten Flagstad.

An article written by Tor Myklebust, Norwegian press attache in Washington during the war, said she returned to Norway in 1941 to join her husband who was a prominent Norwegian economic collaborator with the Nazis. Myklebust said Miss Flagstad's duty was to remain in the United States to work for Norway.

He said the Norwegian authorities had disapproved of her plans to return and she was able to do so only with the help of the German Charge d'Affaires, Hans Thomsen.

Myklebust charged that testimony for her "good national behaviour" given by the chairman of the Norwegian Supreme Court, Emil Stang, on the eve of Miss Flagstad's return to the United States was "sensational".—United Press.

ROYAL SCOTS' DRUM

Tokyo, Jan. 24.

A private in the Second Battalion of the Royal Scots arrived here today from Singapore to recover a dress drum which the Japanese captured from his regiment in Hong Kong during the war.

The ceremony of handing back the drum, which was found in the basement of Tokyo's largest shrine, will take place on Monday during a parade by Australian troops in front of the Imperial Palace in celebration of "Australia Day".—Reuter.

WORLD SHIP ORGANISATION

Lake Success, N.Y., Jan. 24. Establishment of a world-wide shipping organisation will be the main topic discussed by the 15-member United Nations Transport and Communications Commission, which will meet here on Feb. 6.

The proposed organisation would have a consultative and advisory character only, without executive powers.

Its main functions would be: 1. To provide the machinery for cooperation in government regulation and practices, including universal adoption of high standards of safety and efficiency.

2. To encourage the removal of discrimination and restriction.

3. Exchange of information among the Governments.—Reuter.

Battle Of Prices In France

Paris, Jan. 24.

M. Paul Ramadier, Socialist Premier, may be considering drastic monetary measures to win the battle of prices, according to well-informed financial circles here.

In his statement of policy to the National Assembly on Tuesday, M. Ramadier stated that "powerful technical means" would have to be used after psychological means and these circles took this to indicate that the Government was planning severe measures. The fact that the direction of private credit, which was formerly a matter for the Ministry of Finance, has been linked to the Ministry of National Economy, ruled by M. Andre Philip, known as "financial surgeon," was put forward as a strong argument.

It was said that bank accounts would be partly blocked to withdraw all 5,000 franc bank notes from circulation for conversion into Treasury bonds.

Such bank notes are considered by Government circles as one of the best agents of the black market and of cash hoarding in country districts.

Other reports circulating in financial circles said that the Government was about to abolish all economic control and restore total freedom to home trade. This was considered, however, most improbable by semi-official circles, where it was stressed that M. Philip was strongly opposed to such measures.—Reuter.

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THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

Forever Amber

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KATHLEEN WINSOR

Amber St. Clare, illegitimate daughter of noble blood, who is brought up in a small village by foster-parents. She grows into a ravishing beauty, and in the village one day in the year 1660 she meets—

Bruce, Lord Carlton, a cavalier, with whom she falls in love. Travelling with Lord Carlton is the

Earl of Almsbury, who, seeing Amber's obvious infatuation for Bruce, flippantly introduces them at the local inn.

Amber persuades Lord Carlton to take her to London with him. Eventually Carlton leaves for the Indies to repair the family fortunes lost in the Civil War. Amber is desolate. She finds herself with child and marries a man who eventually disappears with all the money Carlton had left her.

All alone, Amber goes into debt and is thrown into Newgate Gaol, where she suffers every degradation. In order to ease her lot she gives herself to a notorious highwayman, who plans their escape. The highwayman is eventually hanged. Amber then goes on the stage because she learns that actresses cannot be arrested.

She meets Captain Rex Morgan, a gallant from the Court. While Amber is his mistress she is summoned by the King and lies with him.

Then Bruce Carlton returns. He and Amber go to see their son, who is being cared for by a foster-mother. Rex Morgan hears of her love affair with Carlton and challenges him to a duel. Rex is killed. Bruce once again sails away.

Amber, thinking she is again with child, goes to Tunbridge Wells to take the waters. On the way she meets Samuel Dangerfield, a 60-year-old wealthy City merchant, and a widower. She marries him for his money, and she is seen a widow with £26,000.

Amber has a daughter by Bruce and moves to an apartment in St. Martin's Lane. Red crosses appear on doorways—the beginning of the Plague. Bruce returns from sea and catches the Plague. Amber nurses him with fanatical devotion while she waits for a nurse, sent by the parish, to arrive.

The nurse arrived about nine o'clock at night. "Why are you so late?" demanded Amber. "The doctor told me he'd send you here in the middle of the afternoon."

"I come from my last patient, ma'am, and he wasn't a quick one to die."

Amber ran up the stairs ahead of the nurse, holding the candle high to make a light for her, but the old woman mounted slowly, breathing hard and bracing her hands on her knees at every step to rest herself. At the top Amber turned and looked down, surveying her narrowly. What she saw was not reassuring.

The woman was perhaps sixty and fat. Her face was round and flabby, but she had a sharp-pointed nose and her mouth was compressed into a thin line. She was wearing a gaudy yellow wig set crookedly on her head and a dark red velvet dress, soiled and worn shabby, which exposed her sloping shoulders and fitted too tight across the great loose breasts. She had an evil smell. "What's your name?" Amber asked her as she came puffing to the top.

"Spring, ma'am. Mrs. Spong."

"Not So Good..."

"I'm Mrs. Dangerfield. The patient's in here." She walked into the bedroom and Mrs. Spong waddled after her, her stupid blue eyes rolling over the splendid furnishings. She did not even glance at Bruce until, at last, in exasperation, Amber said, "Well!"

Then she started slightly and gave a foolish half-grin, exposing a few blackened teeth in her gums. "Oh—that's the patient!" She observed him for a moment. "He don't look so good, does he?"

"No, he doesn't!" snapped Amber, angry and disappointed to have been sent this stupid old woman. "You're a nurse, aren't you? Tell me what to do. How can I help him? I've done everything the doctor said—"

"Well, ma'am, if you've done everything the doctor said there's nothin' more I can tell you."

"But how does he look? You've seen others sick of it—how does he look compared with them?"

Discouraged

Spong stared at him for a moment, sucking on her teeth. "Well, ma'am," she said at last, "some of 'em looked better. And some of 'em looked better. But I tell you truly—he don't look good. Now, ma'am, have ye got some food for a poor starving old woman? Last place I was they didn't have nothin' to eat. I vow and swear—"

Amber gave her a glare of disgust, but as Bruce suddenly began to retch again she rushed to hold the pan for him, motioning toward the kitchen with one hand. "Out there."

She felt more tired than ever, and completely discouraged. This filthy, vulgar, old creature would be no use to her at all. She would not let her touch Bruce and it did not seem likely the nurse would do so anyway. The best Amber could hope would be that she might induce her to watch him tonight so that she could have a few hours of sleep, and tomorrow send her away and get someone better.

Half an hour went by and she heard not a sound from Spong. At last, in a fury, she rushed out to find her immaculate kitchen littered and dirty. The food hutch stood open; there was a broken egg on the floor; great chunks had been cut from the ham and the quarter wheel of cheese. Spong looked around at her in surprise. She had a piece of ham in one hand and a bottle of stale champagne—which they had opened the night before—in the other.

"Well!" said Amber sarcastically. "I hope you won't be starved to death!"

"No, ma'am!" agreed Spong. "I'd rather nurse the quality, let me tell you. They always got more to eat."

"Go in there and watch his lordship. I've got to get some food ready for him. Call me if he throws off his blankets or starts to vomit—but don't do anything yourself."

"His lordship, is it? And you're her ladyship, I doubt not?"

"Mind your own business, and get on in there. Go on." Spong shrugged her shoulders and went off and, though Amber clenched her teeth together, a sullen scowl on her face, she began immediately to prepare some food.

Bruce was increasingly restless and violent which Spong informed her was most likely the effect of the rising plague boils. Two of her patients, she said placidly, had been unable to stand the pain and had gone mad and killed themselves.

To watch him suffer and to be unable to help or ease his pain was an agony. The plague-bill had risen steadily out of his groin, until now it was the full size of a tennis ball, and the taut-stretched skin over it had thickened and turned black.

"He may; but to be truthful, I doubt it. Has the carbuncle burst?"

"No. It's soft now," but it feels hard deep inside. He doesn't seem to even know when I touch it. Isn't there anything we can do? There must be some way to save him."

"Trust in God, madam. We can do no more. If the carbuncle breaks, dress it—but take care to get no blood or pus on yourself. I'll come tomorrow and if it hasn't opened by then I'll have to cut it open. That's all I can tell you. Good-day, madam."

When she was ready to go to bed she decided to try bribing Spong. "If you'll stay awake till three and then call me I'll give you a bottle of brandy." If the old woman would watch and let her sleep at night she was willing to have her drunk all day.

The arrangement satisfied Spong who vowed again that she would not so much as close an eye.

Amber was awakened by a gurgling scream that brought her to her feet at a leap, her heart pounding sickeningly. Bruce, kneeling on the edge of the bed had grabbed Spong by the throat and she was lashing and flailing about, helpless as a flounder. With his face contorted, teeth bared savagely, shoulders hunched, he was forcing all the strength of his arms into his fingers and they were crushing out the old woman's life.

Quickly throwing herself on to the bed behind him, Amber grabbed his arms and tried to drag him backwards. Cursing, he dropped the nurse, and turned on Amber. His fingers closing around her throat, squeezing the blood into her face and temple until the top of her head felt ready to burst. Her ears cracked and she went blind. Desperately she put up her hands and finding his eyeballs she gouged her thumbs into them. His grip weakened slowly, and then all at once he collapsed on to the bed, sprawling weirdly.

A Relief

Amber slowly sank to the floor, helpless and stupidly dazed. It was several seconds before she realised what Spong was trying to tell her.

"It's broke, ma'am! It's broke—that was what drove 'im mad!"

She dragged herself to her feet then and saw that the great, swollen mass of the carbuncle had burst, as though the top had been blown off a crater. There was a hole deep enough and large enough to thrust a finger into, and the blood poured out in a dark scarlet stream that ran into a spreading pool on the bed and clotted thickly. A watery gland-fluid came with it, and yellow pus was beginning to work its way upward.

Amber sent Spong to the kitchen for some warm water and began immediately to wash off the blood, wiping it away as it ran out.

At last the blood stopped flowing, though it continued to seep slowly, and Amber bound up the wound.

Along toward morning, to her enormous relief, the colour began to return to his face, his breathing became more regular, and his skin was dry again.

Very Weak

By the eighth day she was convinced that he would live. But the period of convalescence was long and tedious and characterised by a deep physical and mental depression, an almost complete prostration, during which any sudden or undue exertion could have rapidly fatal results.

Since the night the carbuncle had opened, Bruce had lain supine, never making a voluntary move. The restlessness, the delirium, the violence were gone, and his strength had waned until he was not able even to stir.

Amber worked ceaselessly, though after the bursting of the carbuncle she was able to get enough sleep, and she did her tasks with enthusiasm and even a kind of pleasure, certainly with satisfaction.

clean as possible and, with Spong's help, she managed to change the sheets on the bed. The rest of the apartment she kept as immaculate as if she expected a visit from a maiden aunt.

Dr. Barton had not come since his second call, and both Spong and Amber decided that he had either died or run away—as the plague got worse, more and more of the doctors were leaving.

Every morning when she had fed Bruce his breakfast—usually a candle—she changed the bandage on the great sloughing wound, washed his teeth as well as she could, and then sat down beside him to comb his hair. It was the moment she enjoyed most in each day, for her work kept her so busy that she had very little time to spend with him.

"Bless You..."

Sometimes he looked up at her, but his eyes were dull and expressionless; she could not tell whether he even knew who it was bending over him. But each time that he looked at her she smiled, hoping for an answering smile.

And at last, it came. It was the tenth day after he had fallen sick, and she sat on the bed facing him, intent on combing his hair, which was as crisp and healthy as it had ever been. She laid the flat side of her hand gently into one of its waves, smiling as she did so, deeply and truly happy. She realised then that he was watching her and that he actually saw her, knew who she was and what she was doing. A swift thrill ran over her flesh and, as his mouth tried to smile at her, she touched his cheek with her fingers, caressing.

"God bless you, darling!" His voice was soft and hoarse, scarcely more than a whisper, and he turned his head to kiss her fingers.

"Oh, Bruce—" She could just murmur his name, for her throat had swollen, until it ached, and a tear splashed down on to his cheek. She brushed the next one away before it could fall, and then his eyes closed again, his head turned wearily and he gave a light sigh.

But after that she always knew when he was conscious, and little by little he began to talk to her, though it was many days before he could say more than a few words at a time.

Many Die

His eyes often followed her when she was in the room, and in them she saw a look of gratitude that wrenched her heart. She wanted to tell him that she had not done so very much—only what she had to do because she loved him, and that she had never been happier than during these past days when she had used all her energy, all the strength she had, every thought and waking minute for him. Whatever had been between them in the past, whatever was to come in the future, she had had these few weeks when he belonged to her completely.

Day by day London was changing. Gradually the vendors disappeared from the streets, and with them went the age-old cries which had rung through the town for centuries.

The theatres had closed in May, and now many taverns and inns and cook-shops were shut up.

Funerals were forbidden, but nevertheless long trains of mourners were to be seen winding through the streets at almost every hour of the day or night.

And in spite of the great fear of the disease, the churches were always crowded. Many of the orthodox ministers had fled, but the Nonconformists remained and harangued the confused, miserable multitudes for their sins.

The prostitutes had never been busier. A rumour began to spread that the surest protection against plague was a venereal disease, and the whore-houses of Vinegar-yard, Saffronhill, and Nightingale-lane were open 24 hours a day. Harlots and customers often died together, and their bodies were carried out by a back door to avoid offending those who waited in the parlour.

they would enjoy whatever was left to them of life, and die when their turn came.

It soon became impossible to bury the dead in separate graves, and huge pits 40ft. long and 20ft. deep—were dug at the edge of the city. Every night the bodies were brought there, some of them decently in coffins, more and more shrouded only in a sheet, or naked as they had died. In the grave they found a common anonymity.

During the days crows and ravens settled there, but at the approach of a man they swarmed up into the air circling and hovering, waiting until he was gone, and then they drifted earthward again. As the bodies began to rot a foul stench crept into the town, and there was no breath of moving air to dispel it.

There had never been a hotter summer. The sky was bright as brass, blue, and without a shred of cloud.

It became more and more common to see the dead and dying in the streets, for the plague struck swiftly.

One night, at the end of July, she heard a terrible cry. There came a rumbling of cart-wheels over the cobblestones, the sound of a hand-bell, and a man's deep voice calling: "Bring out your dead! Bring out your dead!"

She looked swiftly at Spong, for Bruce was asleep, and then she rushed to the window. Spong waddled after her, crowding up close. Below they saw a cart, moving slowly, one man in the driver's seat and another ringing the hand-bell and walking beside it. In the light from the torch carried by a third they could see that the cart was half-filled with bodies, piled indiscriminately, flung one on top of another. Arms and legs stuck out at weird angles; one corpse hung over the side, its long hair pouring half-way to the ground.

"Holy Virgin Mary!" breathed Amber, and then she turned away with a shudder, sick at her stomach, cold and wet.

New Dread

Amber could not push the picture of the dead-cart from her mind. The sick men and women she had seen, the dead bodies in the streets, the constant tolling of the bells, the stench from the graves, the city's unnatural quiet, the news (given by the guard) that 2,000 had died of plague that past week—the cumulative effect of those things were beginning to overpower her. She had held off fear and despair during the time that Bruce had been most hopelessly sick, for then she had not had time to think. But now a kind of superstitious dread was beginning to work in her mind.

Why should I still be well and alive when all these others are dying? What have I done to deserve to live if they must die? And she knew that she deserved life no more than anyone else.

One morning in mid-August Bruce told her that he thought they would be able to leave London within another fortnight. She was spreading up his bed and though she answered him as casually as she could she had been worrying about him for some time.

"No one is allowed to leave the city now whether they have a certificate of health or not."

"We'll get away. I've been thinking about it and I believe I know a way we can get out."

"There's nothing I'd like more. This city—God, it's a nightmare!" She changed the subject quickly, smiling at him. "How would you like a shave? I'm a mighty good barber."

Bruce ran his hand across the five-week growth of beard on his chin. "I'd like it. I feel like a fishmonger."

Nurse Victim

She went out to the kitchen for a basin of warm water and returned to the bedroom, where she laid her implements on a table, wrapped a white linen towel about his chest, and sat down beside him. Both of them enjoyed the operation, and were much amused by it. Amber felt a deep current of joy running through her, and once, as she leaned close to him, she saw his eyes on her breasts. Her heart gave a beat and she was aware of a slow, creeping warmth.

"You must be feeling much better," she said softly.

"Well enough," he agreed, "to wish I felt much better than I do."

(Continued on Page 9)

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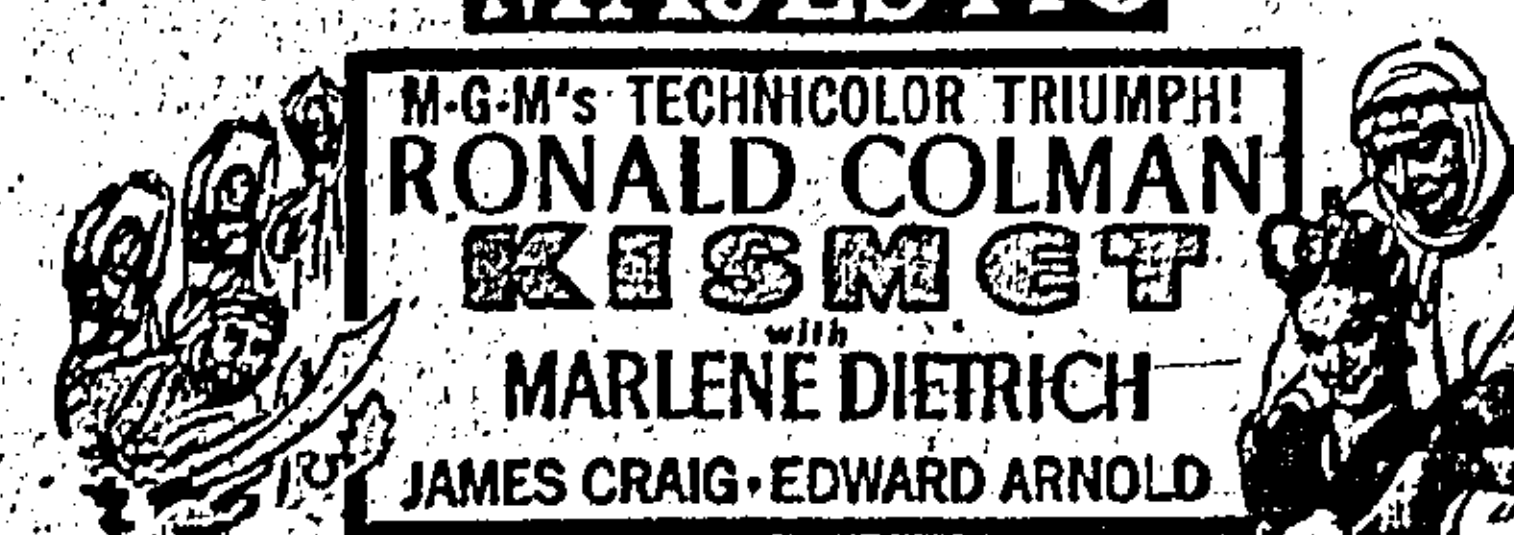
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HOTEL APPEAL FAILS

Counsel And Governor's Order

"Legislature Can Be Challenged"

That the word Governor-in-Council contained no magic and that the legislature as well as the Governor's order could be challenged, was argued by Mr. Charles Loseby in the Full Court of Appeal yesterday, when Mr. Justice E. H. Williams and Mr. Justice T. J. Gould delivered written judgment refusing an application submitted by Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro for the appointment of a receiver for the business of the Great China Hotel Ltd., pending the hearing of an appeal to the Full Court.

The application was filed as a result of an early judgment given by Mr. Justice Williams against the Great China Hotel for seeking recovery of the premises known as Nos. 119 and 120, Connaught Road, Central, and Nos. 237 and 239, Des Voeux Road, Central, which were sub-leased by them to the Wo Hing Co. Ltd.

The Hon. Mr. d'Almada, instructed by the Hon. M. M. Watson, appeared for the appellants, the Great China Hotel Ltd. Mr. Charles Loseby and Mr. B. A. Bernacchi, instructed by Mr. Peter Sin, appeared for the respondents, the Wo Hing Co. Ltd.

In their judgment Their Lordships said:

"This is an application for the appointment of a receiver for the business of the Great China Hotel Ltd. pending the hearing of an appeal to the Full Court.

"Apart from the existence of the order of the Governor-in-Council exempting the premises from the provisions of the proclamation, no grounds for appeal have been disclosed by appellants apart from the general statement that the trial judge erred in deciding that the lease of the premises fell within the provisions of the Proclamation.

"The time which has elapsed between the date of that judgment and the date of this application though not sufficient evidence of laches which ought to bar the application does not appear to indicate much confidence by appellants in the success of their appeal apart from the order of the Governor-in-Council.

"If there is any danger to the property calling for the appointment of a receiver for its preservation it is a danger which has existed since June when the writ was first issued but this in the first application for a receiver.

Should Be Refused

"Moreover the respondents have been carrying on the business in question since 1933 and it is at least doubtful whether the appellants have anything more than an action for damages. The affidavit filed by Chan-Hung Leung on their behalf does not allege that the respondents are making any attempt to do away with their assets—there is merely the statement that the respondents could if they desired, get rid of their assets at short notice by way of payment of a dividend to the members of the company.

"Unless, therefore, the circumstances are entirely altered by the order of the Governor-in-Council, the Court is of the opinion that the application should be refused. Prima facie the order has this effect but the respondent has disclosed what may well be substantial grounds for holding that the order should be held invalid. In this respect the present application differs from that in the case of John v. John (1898) 2 Ch. D. 573 upon which the appellants rely. There the judges indicated their view that the title of the defendant who was a person of small means appeared to be shadowy, whilst that of the plaintiff appeared to be made out although the judges were at pains to point out that the defendant might at the hearing of the case be able to cause them to change their minds.

"Here it cannot be said to be a foregone conclusion that the appellants will be successful at the hearing of the appeal.

"As has already been indicated, there is no evidence that the assets of the respondents are in jeopardy.

"For these reasons the Court holds that the application must be refused.

"Respondents costs to be costs in the case."

Counsel's Arguments

In previous proceedings Mr. d'Almada said that it was an application by the appellants for a Receiver and Manager to be appointed to receive the receipts and profits of the business of the Great China Hotel Ltd. at Nos. 119 and 120 Connaught Road Central, and Nos. 237 and 239 Des Voeux Road Central. He said that after judgment was given against his clients on Oct. 4, 1946, the appellants had on Dec. 29, 1946, obtained from the Governor-in-Council an Order granting the exemption of the said premises from the provision of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation as is necessary to enable clients to recover from the respondents the premises in question. He said the Order of the Governor-in-Council was made on the recommendation by the Tenancy Committee.

Since the granting of the Governor's Order in Council his clients had attempted to retake possession of the premises but the respondents had refused to give them up. Since July last year the respondents had been making profits in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 which should have been made by the appellants so that in those circumstances it was just and convenient for a Receiver to be appointed until the hearing of the appeal.

Refusing the application on behalf of the respondents Mr. Loseby said that the application was an equitable application and so the appellants must come to Court with clean hands. He deprecated the method under which the Governor's Order was obtained and contended that that Order was ultra vires and of no effect. Continuing Mr. Loseby said that he would submit with complete confidence that the Governor's Order was not worth the paper that it was written on and its validity would be challenged in due course. With regard to the suggested appointment of a Receiver he referred to a letter written by the appellants' Solicitors as long ago as on June 10, 1946, in which the suggestion of appointment of a Receiver was made by the appellants (then Plaintiffs).

Unusual Case

He said that it was most unusual and peculiar that the Tenancy Committee should have made such a recommendation

FRANCO OFFER TO EXILES

Paris, Jan. 24.
All expatriated Spaniards, who return to Spain within six months, will be granted political amnesty, the Spanish Embassy here announced today in an official communique.

The communique added that on arrival at the frontier repatriates would be given all aid and facilities to return to their former homes or resume their former jobs.

—Reuter.

to the Governor-in-Council without hearing the respondents nor the respondents' counsel. The application being made to the Governor-in-Council who obviously acted on the recommendation given by the Tenancy Committee. The respondents until the Governor's Order was obtained. His clients, the respondents, were anxious to have the Appeal heard which had been tentatively fixed for Feb. 4, 1947.

He said he would comment also when the time came that the legislation conferring upon the Governor-in-Council great exemption was ill conceived, and it was a condition precedent that there must be a recommendation by the Tenancy Committee, and who must investigate the facts and then the Governor-in-Council would make an Order to a privileged party thereby damaging another party. The Tenancy Committee must express an opinion on the facts before them concerning a dispute of two parties upon which a recommendation was made.

"Suppose," Mr. Loseby argued, "the Committee had acted fraudulently, is not there any redress? Whoever drafted that clause in the Law Amendment Transitional Provision Ordinance, 1946, obviously did not realize the havoc it was going to play on the Committee in law."

Mr. Loseby stated that the respondents had been in possession of the premises since 1938 both in fair and foul weather. The appellants, having delayed deliberately so long it was not to their detriment to wait for another 14 days.

Commenting again on the Governor's Order Mr. Loseby said that in his submission the method in obtaining the same violated all principles of justice and the Court of Appeal Jurisdiction will look at the conduct of the parties and ascertain whether it was free from blame before according the remedy sought. It was a cardinal rule of British justice that no person should be convicted of a crime without being heard in this case had been condemned unheard by virtue of the Governor's Order.

No Magic

He contended that the Order from the Governor-in-Council had been wrongly obtained which Order was tainted with irregularity. The legislature as well as the Governor's Order could always be challenged.

Mr. Justice Williams: "Have you found any case in which it is held that a Court can upset an Order of the Governor-in-Council?"

Mr. Loseby: "Certainly, the word Governor-in-Council contains no magic."

Mr. Bernacchi then dealt with the

Too Many Planes In Bad Weather

London, Jan. 24.
The suggestion that far too many aircraft tried to fly over France in bad weather, was made today when the British inquiry into the British Overseas Airways Corporation plane crash at Stowting, Kent, on Jan. 13, was resumed in London.

One BOAC pilot stated that the control at Le Bourget airfield was slow in bringing planes down on the day when the ill-fated Dakota tried to land there. It was after a wait at Le Bourget that the Dakota proceeded to England and crashed.

Taking up the point made by the pilot, Max Hymans, Director-General of French Civil Aviation, said that France was only in its second winter after the war and airfields had not yet fully recovered.

It was then that he suggested that too many aircraft set out in bad weather to fly over France and asked: "Should we not still take very great precautions in bad weather?"

Captain Bressy, who was piloting another Dakota on Jan. 13, said earlier that two hours elapsed between his arrival over Le Bourget and his actual landing. He considered the landing time could be halved if instead of being ordered to wait at a point 20 miles away and the next plane to land was permitted to circle Le Bourget beacon.

The inquiry into the crash, in which eight people lost their lives, is expected to last ten days.—Reuter.

question of circumstances under which a Receiver would be appointed and submitted that this was not a proper case where a Receiver should be appointed. Replying Mr. d'Almada said that it seemed to him that the respondents suggested that the appellants had obtained an Order a trick had been played on them. He assured the Court that this was not the case. He said that, prima facie, the Governor's Order must be taken to be valid and binding. And that being so the respondents had no right to occupy the premises.

Church Notices

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
(Garden Road)

26th January, 1947, 3rd. Sunday after Epiphany. Holy Communion, 7.15 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m. (sung), Noon, 4.15 p.m., 6.15 p.m. (sung). Sermon, 11 a.m. and 4.15 p.m. by the Rev. Canon Copley, M.A., 6.30 p.m. Evensong & Sermon, Preacher, The Rev. George J. M.A., 6.15 p.m. Choir practice in the Cathedral at 6.30 p.m. Thursday (in Cantonese) Holy Communion at 8 a.m. Friday, January at 7.45 a.m. Evensong, Matins 7.30 a.m. & 8 p.m. in English. Night-Holy Communion at 8 a.m. in Bungalow 'A' Stanley.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
Nathan Road, Kowloon.

26th January, 1947, 3rd. Sunday after Epiphany. 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Matins & Sermon, Preacher, The Rev. G. E. L. Lippcomb, S.C.F., 6.30 p.m. Evensong, Preacher, The Rev. J. H. Ogilvie, 7.45 p.m. Social Hour, Music & Refreshments. The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27th Jan. 1947, at 8.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Vicarage—Refreshments provided. All interested are welcome. Thursday 7.30 p.m. Choir practice. Friday, 8 p.m. Bible study circle.

CHRIST CHURCH
Waterloo Road, Kowloon Tong.

26th January, 1947, 3rd. Sunday after Epiphany. 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Matins and Sermon.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
SCIENTIST
Hong Kong

(A branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston, Mass.) Sunday Service, 11.15 a.m. Church Building, 81 Macdonnell Road. The subject of the Lesson Sermon in Sunday Jan. 26, is: "Truth: The Golden Text: 1 John 3:18. Response: Reading: Zechariah 8:3, 7-9, 16, 17, 19. Reading, Room open on Wednesday morning 11-12 noon, Tuesday and Friday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Church Building. All are welcome.

UNION CHURCH
Sunday, January 26th in the Volunteer Headmaster's Garden, Yau Tei.

8 a.m. Preacher, The Rev. George She. 8.30 p.m. There will be a United Free Churches Service. In the Methodist Church, Queen's Road East.

THE FREE CHURCHES
METHODIST

At The English Methodist Church, Queen's Road East, 8.45 a.m. Jan. 26, 1947, 10.30 a.m. Morning Service, Preacher, Rev. J. Curry R.N., 6.30 p.m. United Free Church Service—Rev. W. G. B. Ross M.A., 7.45 p.m. Social Hour 8 p.m. and 8.15 p.m. Fellowship Meeting in 8 and 8 Home, Subject: The Forgiveness of Sin.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES
Sunday, January 26th.

8rd. Sunday After Epiphany. SERVICES FOR H.M. FORCES. At St. Joseph's Church, Holy Mass at 6.30 a.m. Sermon: "The Spirit of St. Paul."—Preacher: Father P. Cronin, S.J.

Paul.—Preacher: Father P. Cronin, S.J. At the Catholic Centre, Holy Mass at 5.30 p.m.

CATHOLIC CENTRE CHAPEL
(King's Bldg. 1st floor, Tel. 22187)

Weekdays, Holy Mass at 7.30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, Monday Novena in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at 6.30 p.m.—Rosary, Sermon, Prayer and Benediction.

THE CATHEDRAL
(16, Causeway, Tel. 22574)
Morning Services: At 6.30 Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 7.00 Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 8.00 Choral Mass (sermon in English); at 10.00 Choral Mass (sermon in English); at 6.30 p.m. Catechism classes; at 4 p.m. Benediction, Weekdays, Masses at 6.00, 7.00 and 7.30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
(5, Garden Rd. Tel. 23992)

At 8.30 a.m. Holy Mass (sermon in English); at 10.30 a.m. Choral Mass (sermon in English) and Benediction. Saturday, Confessions will be heard in the afternoon. Weekdays, Holy Mass at 8 a.m.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
(Hazy Valley, Tel. 27507)

At 7 a.m. Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 8 a.m. Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 9.30 a.m. Choral Mass (sermon in English); at 10.30 a.m. Choral Mass (sermon in English); at 6.30 p.m. Catechism classes; at 4 p.m. Benediction, Weekdays, Masses at 6.30 and 7.30 a.m.

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH
(St. Louis Rd. School, Tel. 21226)

At 8.15 a.m. Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 9.30 a.m. Choral Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 10.30 a.m. Choral Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 6.30 p.m. Catechism classes; at 4 p.m. Benediction, Weekdays, Masses at 6.30 and 7.30 a.m.

ROSARY CHURCH
(40, Chatham Rd. Tel. 50602)

Morning Services: At 6.30 Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 7.30 Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 8.30 Choral Mass (sermon in English) and Benediction; at 10.00 Holy Mass (sermon in English); at 6.30 p.m. Catechism classes; at 4 p.m. Benediction, Wednesday, Jan. 23, At 6.00 p.m. Meeting of the Parochial Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Saturday, Feb. 1, At 2.15 p.m. Catechism classes and Confessions for children, Weekdays, Masses at 6.30 and 7.30 a.m.

ST. TERESA'S CHURCH
(Prince Edward Rd. Tel. 50217)

At 6.45 a.m. Holy Mass (sermon in Chinese); at 8 a.m. Choral Mass (sermon in English) and Benediction; at 10.30 a.m. Holy Mass (sermon in English); at 1 p.m. Catechism classes in Chinese, Weekdays, Masses at 6.30 and 7.30 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
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Masses at 7.30 and 9 a.m.—Catechism and Benediction at 8 p.m. Weekdays, Holy Mass at 7 a.m.

RICCI HALL CHAPEL
(H.K. University—Tel. 641)

Masses at 6.30 and 7.30 a.m. Weekdays, Masses at 6.45 and 7.10 a.m.

CARMELITE CONVENT
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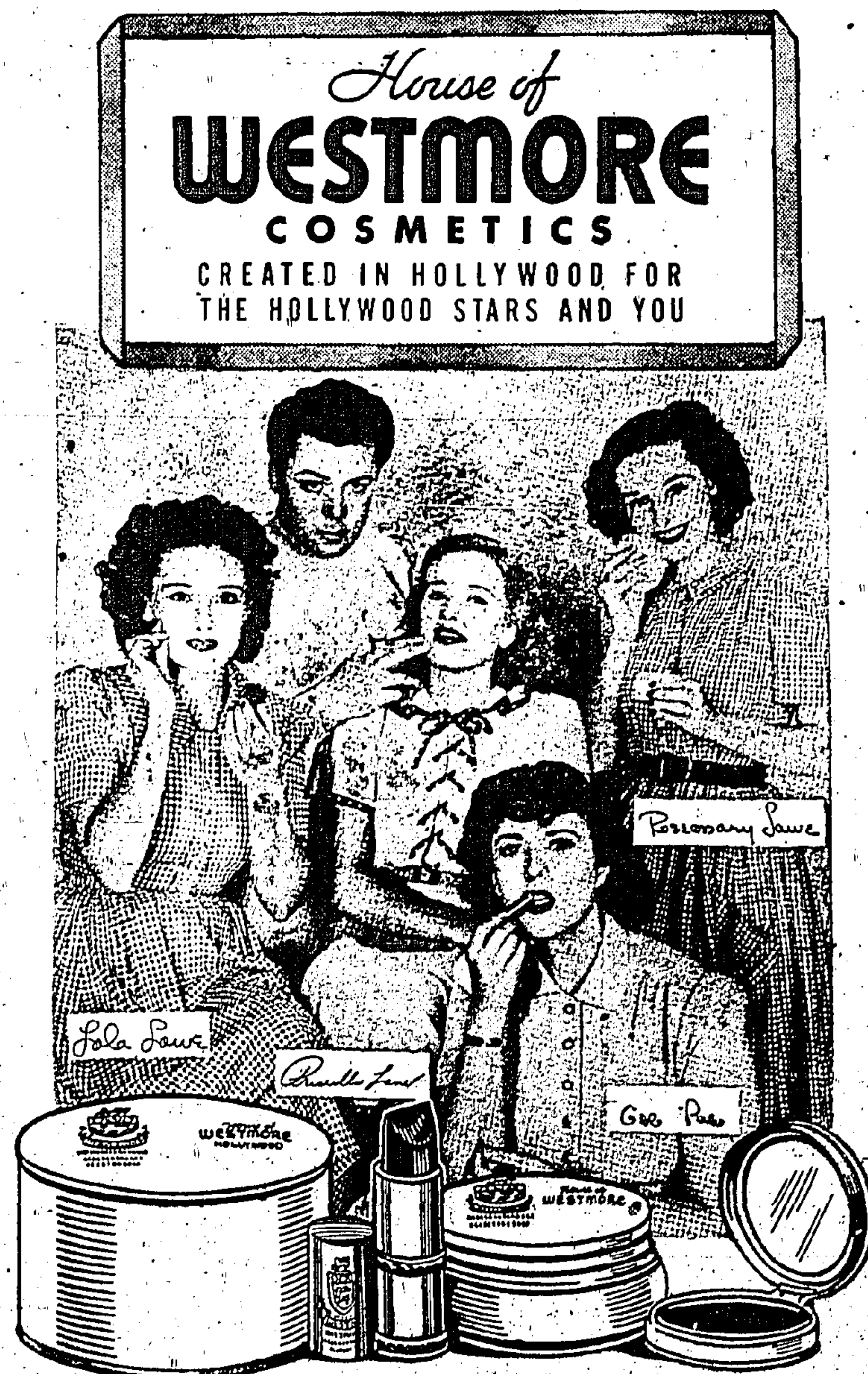
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"HUPEH"	Tsingtao & Tientsin 4 p.m. 31st Jan.
"KWEIYANG"	Swatow & Bangkok 2 p.m. 2nd Feb.
"FUJIAN"	Singapore and Batavia 4 p.m. 5th Feb.

ARRIVALS FROM

"KWEIYANG"	Bangkok, Saigon & Swatow 30th Jan.
"FUJIAN"	Kobe and Shanghai 1st Feb.
"FOOCHOW"	Macassar & Sandakan 4th Feb.

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	Arrives 4.30 a.m. 31st Jan.

Agents: BLUE FUNNEL LINE

U. K. SERVICE

Sailing	For
"TEUCER"	29th Jan. Liverpool and Glasgow.
"MENELAUS"	Mid Feb. Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, Liverpool and Glasgow.
"AJAX"	Arriving 3rd Feb. From U.S.A. via Shanghai

Agents: Australian-Oriental Line, Ltd.

Arriving	From
"TAIPING"	5th Feb. Australia via Kure.
"TAIPING"	Sailing For Sydney.
"TAIPING"	1st Week Feb. Accepts Cargo To New Zealand Ports On Through Bills Of Lading.

All The Above Subject To Alteration Without Notice.
For Passage and Freight Particulars Apply To The Above.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

S.S. "HAIYANG"

Sailing for Swatow & Foochow
on 26th January, 1947.

Subject to alteration without notice.

For Particulars of Freight & Passage, please apply to:-
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.

General Managers.

P. & O. Building, 5th floor. Tel. No. 31281

CHINESE SHIPPING DEPT.

20, Connaught Road, Central. Tel. No. 24639

BEN LINE STEAMERS LTD.

ARRIVALS

S.S. "BENLEDI"	End Jan.
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For Further Particulars, Apply To:-

W. R. LOXLEY & CO. (CHINA) LTD.

Agents,

York Building. Telephone: 34165.

STAN LINE

Direct Sailing for VANCOUVER, SEATTLE, PORTLAND:-

M.V. "STANHALL" Loading at H.K. about Feb. 20th

Cargo Tanks for Bulk Oil Available

For freight and particulars apply to:-

WALLEM & CO., Agents.

Tel. 34177-3.

South Africa Monte Video Buenos Ayres.

CARGO ACCEPTED FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICAN & RIVER PLATE PORTS.

M.V. "TAYBANK" SAILING 5th FEBRUARY.

For further particulars apply to:-

THE BANK LINE (CHINA) LTD.

King's Building. Telephone 27731-27732

Hong Kong Trade For December

The Statistical Office of the Imports and Exports Department reports that imports of merchandise into the Colony of Hong Kong during the month of December, 1946, amounted to a declared value of \$113,435,478 as compared with \$54,810,639 in the month of December, 1939.

Exports of merchandise totalled a declared value of \$72,435,558 as compared with \$46,736,393.

Annual imports for the year 1946 amount to a declared value of \$933,474,552 as compared with \$594,199,224 in the year 1939. Annual exports totalled \$765,634,950 as compared with \$533,385,203.

No cognizance has been taken of Government sponsored cargoes.

	IMPORTS FROM		EXPORTS TO	
	December 1939	December 1946	December 1939	December 1946
United Kingdom	2,476,365	9,554,629	3,003,617	1,560,482
Australia	719,717	8,791,198	616,093	520,842
Burma	8,621	—	207,318	308,888
Canada	480,616	992,069	358,728	81,816
Ceylon	23,459	8,855	100,779	300,069
East Africa	13,855	416,718	16,159	—
India	970,413	12,064,810	1,139,341	1,069,605
Malaya (British)	903,095	4,033,619	5,681,891	10,244,114
New Zealand	15,413	4,227	117,747	61,304
North Borneo	232,195	462,950	160,123	34,638
South Africa	124,693	740,080	80,821	356,075
West Africa	—	118,504	2,603	—
West Indies	1,348	12,060	548,597	22,615
British Empire, Other	298,704	249,222	271,015	140,702
Belgium	159,089	2,465,963	27,634	—
China, North	12,297,814	6,746,340	4,175,768	5,178,984
China, Middle	302,901	5,030,700	228,774	5,013,274
China, South	1,539,768	28,122,406	1,748,758	14,987,034
Cuba	—	18,400	6,376	8,572
Central America	—	113,782	212,819	14,239
Denmark	—	113,782	57,864	0,507
Egypt	—	9,110	63,394	797,158
France	—	46,411	432,402	1,424,378
French Indo-China	—	5,922,162	3,849,195	1,306,681
Germany	—	41,123	—	—
Holland	—	303,596	37,340	164,273
Italy	—	65,029	1,772,623	176,461
Japan	—	2,163,864	1,276,568	51,560
Kwong Chow Wan	—	3,363,492	1,738,309	507,639
Macao	—	3,684,482	8,692,890	4,417,970
Norway	—	13,698	98,446	123,740
Netherlands East	—	5,561,238	685,634	917,440
India	—	421,018	1,666,749	878,309
Philippines	—	3,401	206,639	4,947,779
Portugal	—	2,142,231	3,169,348	2,518,777
Siam	—	7,160	99,816	50,460
South America	—	18,358	821,371	75,069
Sweden	—	190,736	220,997	4,430
Switzerland	—	13,191	66,783	—
Spain	—	2,946,419	9,592,119	10,314,927
U. S. A.	—	—	—	12,435,986
Others, including U.S.S.R. (in 1939)	—	110,182	977,400	228,268
Total	54,810,639	113,435,478	46,736,393	127,435,558
Total Br. Empire	6,800,393	37,240,457	13,291,423	15,501,733
Total Foreign	48,441,246	76,195,022	33,445,070	56,933,865

IMPORTS

	December 1939		December 1946	
	1939	1946	1939	1946
Animals, Live	1,171,989	3,144,065	67,243	—
Building Materials	523,131	2,245,039	242,300	125,759
Chemicals & Drugs	723,301	2,563,857	365,990	1,520,283
Chinese Medicines	2,207,631	4,893,781	2,162,079	3,132,312
Dye & Tan. Materials	441,832	1,344,242	399,254	356,705
Foodstuffs & Prov.	14,848,001	18,825,532	10,866,675	11,887,383
Fuels	1,462,392	1,421,930	69,718	383,036
Hardware	320,091	637,305	293,399	983,630
Liquors, Intoxicating	568,767	1,063,716	121,437	534,296
Machinery & Engines	604,921	301,634	150,121	104,381
Manures	19,144	47,790	207,295	29,388
Metals	1,766,638	4,934,360	1,379,390	3,960,098
Minerals & Ores	1,090,261	379,787	877,333	173,673
Nuts & Seeds	790,779	2,358,448	552,307	1,256,266
Oils & Fats	10,302,476	14,948,877	11,756,620	19,381,192
Paints	130,504	655,390	128,358	324,281
Paper & Paperware	1,152,803	9,177,005	1,172,336	2,745,241
Piece Goods & Textiles	9,820,831	19,584,881	4,745,586	7,461,173
Railway Materials	53,134	—	61,730	—
Tobacco	537,797	4,339,895	742,518	966,992
Vehicles	468,854	2,441,339	424,932	156,641
Wearing Apparel	478,256	1,099,967	3,264,917	1,452,041
Sundries	5,228,699	16,436,100	6,975,629	15,197,263
Merchandise Total	54,810,639	113,435,478	46,736,393	127,435,558
Treasure	19,242	5,684,511	439,528	19,343,050
Grand Total	54,829,881	119,119,989	47,175,921	146,778,608

IMPORTS FROM

	Year 1939		Year 1946	
	1939	1946	1939	1946
United Kingdom	39,696,059	43,625,729	22,416,927	10,587,044
Australia	7,125,254	42,631,952	3,317,183	4,178,547
Burma	1,036,097	—	5,342,982	1,938,468
Canada	4,843,377	11,232,668	2,562,570	840,222
Ceylon	272,202	244,782	1,399,501	2,804,397
East Africa	352,065	1,182,618	191,804	62,780
India	9,954,638	55,476,162	9,364,445	21,851,149
Malaya (British)	12,959,446	60,260,698	45,985,519	101,934,219
New Zealand	394,976	173,474	830,519	201,015
North Borneo	3,070,422	3,114,547	1,602,594	1,856,638
South Africa	1,580,260	1,128,691	1,154,560	—
West Africa	—	—	1,162,310	69,973
West Indies	4,747	12,780	5,175,887	105,799
British Empire, Other	932,001	20,060,283	2,925,876	1,045,192
Belgium	5,865,230	11,218,560	1,326,407	1,484,222
China, North	166,317,486	89,912,652	45,107,154	104,094,626
China, Middle	13,768,021	45,989,691	22,172,989	60,410,237
China, South	43,121,423	191,763,000	22,538,807	146,924,340
Cuba	—	4,850	208,795	151,687
Central America	10,762	95,608	2,000,842	126,192
Denmark	1,843,947	1,429,761	1,018,112	2,567,065
Egypt	97,666	601,474	424,465	2,771,146
France	2,633,014	2,507,950	7,129,723	3,820,823
French Indo-China	40,659,432	50,120,641	55,470,502	32,278,019
Germany	12,965,124	—	12,612,006	—
Holland	4,430,879	1,044,837	6,181,732	1,912,421
Italy	1,521,372	4,494,693	679,131	642,593
Japan	27,420,848	2,337,428	42,536,217	2,500,537
Kwong Chow Wan	26,359,970	5,387,428	45,936,363	33,661,346
Macao	32,872,239	78,550,266	15,160,348	4,887,830
Norway	556,064	11,395,151	697,968	1,706,805
Netherlands E. Indies	29,430,888	5,141,641	15,093,493	17,905,589
Philippines	2,582,610	15,983,109	11,357,493	1,956,583
Portugal	86,428	728,687	11,663	109,218
Siam	29,883,795	20,387,101	15,493,155	45,984,125
South America	665,615	180,489	1,285,068	430,274
Sweden	720,644	2,204,252	950,802	3,129,420
Switzerland	1,118,474	4,288,287	30,880	5,114
Spain	219,901	185,965	—	—
U.S.A.	61,900,622	119,505,078	70,884,885	83,762,127
Others, incl. U.S.S.R. (in 1939)	—	6,070,081	2,617,904	4,242,835
TOTAL	894,199,224	935,474,552	589,385,203	705,634,950
Total Br. Empire	81,821,172	248,434,369	106,897,394	214,828,675
Total Foreign	812,378,052	686,040,183	482,487,809	690,806,275

Forever Amber

(Continued from Page 7)

That night Spong died of the plague. Amber dragged the body down the stairs. The sound of the dead-cart rattling over the cobblestones came to her ears as she reached the doorway. "Bring out your dead," rang the cry. The driver of the dead-cart and the bell-man came over to get Spong.

Both men bent over to pick Spong up. Suddenly the driver seized the body of her gown and ripped it down, exposing the old woman's gross and flabby body. From neck to thighs she was covered with small blue-circled spots—the plague tokens. He made a noise of disgust, hawked up a glob of saliva, and spat it on to the corpse.

You Next

He turned and surveyed Amber. "Tomorrow night we'll come back for you. And I doubt not you'll make a finer corpse than that stinking old whore."

Amber slammed the door shut and started slowly up the stairs, so weak and sick that she had to hold on to the railings as she went.

The driver of the dead-cart was still with her. She could not get rid of him, no matter what she tried to think of. It did not seem that she was there in the kitchen, but still downstairs, standing in the doorway watching him—but it was not Spong whose gown he tore open, and it was not Spong he thrust into the dead-cart. It was herself.

Holy Jesus! she thought wildly. I think I'm stark raving mad. Another day and I'll be ready for Bedlam.

As she went about her work she was seized by a swirl of dizziness.

The Symptoms

For a moment she stood and stared at the floor, and then she turned and walked into the parlour. No, she thought, shoving away the idea that had suddenly come to her. It can't be that. Of course it can't.

She took the candle-holder, carried it to the little writing-table and set it there. Then she placed the palms of her hands flat on the table-top and leaned forward to look at herself

